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USSR Report

AGRICULTURE

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31 OCTOBER 1986

USSR REPORT
AGRICULTURE

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PROGRESS, PROBLEMS IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROCUREMENTS

Tashkent SELSKOYE KHOZYAYSTVO UZBEKISTANA in Russian No 4, Apr 86 pp 12-15

/Article by S. Khorev, deputy chairman of UzSSR Gosagroprom and chief of the Main Administration for the Production, Procurement and Processing of Fruit, Grapes, Vegetable-Melon Crops and Potatoes: "More Fruit and Vegetable Products for Workers"/

/Text/ One of the more important tasks of the agroindustrial complex during the 12th Five-Year Plan is that of accelerating the development of the country's fruit and vegetable economy. The methods for solving this task were clearly and effectively defined in the decisions handed down during the 27th CPSU Congress. A contribution must be made to this important work by UzSSR Gosagroprom. A considerable production potential has been created throughout the republic for the purpose of launching a campaign to achieve new goals in the development of the fruit and vegetable economy. This campaign is distinguished by greater volumes for the processing industry and agricultural production, by the development of the construction industry and by a network of planning-design organizations and institutes.

During the 11th Five-Year Plan, the average annual production volume for fruit and vegetable products increased by a factor of 1.4 compared to the previous five-year plan. During this period, a considerable increase took place in the volumes of retail goods turnover.

In the recent past, using backward and low capability farms, more than 80 new specialized sovkhoses were organized in Uzbekistan agriculture. The potato areas were increased by 40 percent, orchard areas were increased by a factor of 1.2 mainly by means of stone-fruit strains and vineyards were increased in area by threefold mainly through the use of table-seedless grape varieties.

Improvements were achieved in the culture of farming. The vegetable yields increased during this period by 21 percent, potatoes -- by 24 and melon crops -- by 32 percent. A notable expansion was achieved in the assortment of products and their quality improved. Special attention was given to satisfying the requirements of the republic's population for early potatoes by means of local production and also to the accelerated and intensive development of horticulture and viniculture. The profitability of vegetable, potato and melon production increased. Work concerned with farm specialization was carried out at accelerated rates. At the present time, the republic is annually producing on the average 2,800,000 tons of fruit and vegetable products.

A noticeable expansion took place in the capabilities of the processing industry. In all, approximately 1.5 billion rubles worth of capital investments were employed for developing the republic's fruit and vegetable economy during the past five-year plan. However, the increasing requirements of the population for a broader assortment of orchard and garden products were not satisfied fully. This is an urgent problem for the 12th Five-Year Plan. Thus difficult and extremely tense work must still be carried out in order to further improve this element of the agroindustrial complex and ensure its development in keeping with the tasks assigned during the congress. The creation of gosagroprom, a unified center for administering the economic mechanism for all branches of an agrarian nature, must promote the implementation of the plans as outlined.

This requires first of all the rapid conversion of agriculture over to the path of scientific-technical progress, a further increase in branch efficiency and improvements in the system for organizational and economic administration of the sovkhoses. Here we are still experiencing many shortcomings and areas of neglect. Thus, tending of the sowings and plantings has not been organized on many of the farms and, as a result, we are annually experiencing considerable shortfalls in the crop harvests. Potato production is increasing at a slow rate and a conversion is being carried out over to seedless grape and dried fruit production. The logistical base of the farms is being strengthened very slowly. The construction of production installations, housing and cultural-domestic facilities at newly organized sovkhoses is lagging especially behind. The level of control over deliveries of fruit and vegetable products and the placing of these products in storage is not in keeping with the local trade requirements.

The republic's Gosagroprom is planning a number of serious measures aimed at improving the situation. The chief efforts are presently being directed towards obtaining high yields and carrying out in an unconditional manner the plans for the production and sale to the state of all types of agricultural products. In order to realize the planned goals, it will be necessary, in all areas, to obtain from each hectare 300-400 quintals of vegetables, 200 quintals of potatoes and 150-200 quintals of berries and grapes.

The experience of the best sovkhoses, brigades and individual leading production workers reveals that such plans are fully realistic for us. Last year, for example, 250-350 quintals of products per hectare were obtained in vegetable production at the sovkhoses Kasansay, Leninizm and Komsomolabad in Namangan Oblast, imeni Akhunbabayev in Andizhan Oblast, Karasu and Nazarbek in Tashkent Oblast and Leninabad, Leninizm and imeni XXV Partsiyezd in Samarkand Oblast. Roughly 100-150 quintals of fruit per hectare were obtained at the sovkhoses Pastdargom in Samarkand Oblast and Kommunizm and Nanay in Namangan Oblast. The collectives of the sovkhoses Galaasiya, imeni Michurin in Bukhara Oblast, Ogonek and imeni Abdurakhmanov in Tashkent Oblast, imeni Lenin in Namangan Oblast, Pastdargom in Samarkand Oblast, imeni XXIII Partsiyezda in Dzhizak Oblast and Shurchi, Sakharney Trostnik and imeni Chkalov in Surkhan Darya Oblast.

However, the majority of our farms are still far from achieving such indicators. The raising of all kolkhozes and sovkhoses to the level of leading farms in terms of cropping power, an acceleration in specialization and the industrialization of agricultural production and the extensive introduction of

leading experience constitute, in our opinion, an important reserve for branch intensification. The new system of management is directed towards presenting the sovkhozes and kolkhozes with greater independence and eliminating petty support, wilful pressure and constant interference by oblast and rayon organizations in the internal affairs of the farms.

Gosagroprom is granting the economic executives independence in the selection of scientific recommendations and leading practice for farming management and livestock breeding systems, for the introduction of diverse varieties and strains, technologies and equipment and for the use of various forms for organizing and stimulating labor. Moreover, the goal has been assigned of creating and organizing an economic mechanism for administration and a circulation for finances and a strong economy, such that monetary machinations and other legal violations would be eliminated. An increase in the production of fruit and vegetables is planned for the current five-year plan mainly on the basis of increased yields. Thus, primary emphasis is now being placed upon the factors of scientific-technical progress and the introduction into production operations of scientific achievements and leading practice.

With regard to obtaining high vegetable yields, great importance is being attached to well organized plant breeding and seed production operations and to the correct selection of crop varieties according to the ripening periods and the quality of the seedlings. By this means alone, for example, many leading sovkhozes are obtaining high tomato yields, on the order of 450-540 quintals per hectare. In carrying out this work, we are relying more and more upon assistance furnished by scientists and specialists attached to the Scientific Research Institute of Vegetable-Melon Crops and Potatoes of the Central Asian Branch of VASKhNIL /All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin/, who in recent years have provided production with new and highly productive varieties of vegetable crops. Meanwhile, the republic's scientific-research institutes are systematically failing to carry out their plans for the production of elite seed by crops and varieties, particularly for tomatoes, cucumbers, pepper, carrots, onions, fodder beets and other crops. This situation cannot be tolerated in the future.

Close plantings of vegetables appear to be promising today; they make it possible to utilize the land more efficiently and to introduce combined, secondary and intermediate sowings into operations on a more extensive scale.

Substantial reserves for increasing yields are to be found today in the mechanization of planting operations and in the introduction of machine harvesting of vegetables. However, this work is still being carried out in an unsatisfactory manner at many sovkhozes, especially in Dzhizak, Kashka Darya, Fergana, Samarkand and Tashkent oblasts. Owing to the untimely harvesting of crops (rotting, splitting and infestation by pests), the gross return in marketable output is decreasing by 18-20 percent.

In close collaboration with scientists, we are undertaking measures aimed at adapting the industrial technologies for vegetable production to the republic's conditions and we are introducing them into operations on the farms on an extensive scale. This applies in particular to the so-called Astrakhan industrial method, which raises the yields considerably and which lowers labor expenditures by a factor of 1.5-2.

Hothouse vegetable production will be developed at accelerated rates. Here all measures are being undertaken aimed at raising the yields sharply (by a factor of 3-4) and obtaining not less than 18-20 kilograms of vegetables from each square meter.

Potato production in Uzbekistan is falling behind to a severe degree. The orientation in recent years towards imported seed potatoes has weakened considerably local seed production operations. The practice of one-time use of high quality seed plants has firmly taken root on the potato production farms. Instead of carrying out consistent and scientifically sound work in connection with the reproduction of high quality planting stock, the farms immediately began using such stock for food purposes. Such practice produces a situation wherein the areas allocated for potatoes and the gross production volumes are dependent upon the availability of planting stock. The absence of one's own seed production base represents still another reason for the low potato yields.

In order to improve the situation, the procurements of locally grown seed potatoes during the 12th Five-Year Plan must be increased to 30,000-35,000 tons, no less than two additional farms must be converted over to specialized seed production and Uzsortsemovoshch must display greater responsibility for the importing and procurement on site of seed potatoes and for their preservation and intended use.

In the interest of improving the supply of potatoes for the city of Tashkent and other industrial centers, Yangiyulskiy Rayon in Tashkent Oblast ideally should be converted over completely to the production of fruit and vegetable products and potatoes. In the process and by means of intra-oblast re-specialization of fruit and vegetable farms, 5-6 existing kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Yangiyulskiy, Bostanlykskiy and Akhangaranskiy rayons must additionally be converted over to the production of marketable potatoes and by the end of the five-year plan the potato areas at kolkhozes and goskhoses in Tashkent Oblast must be increased to 15,000 hectares and the production of goods at these facilities increased to 150,000-160,000 tons.

The plans call for potato production to be increased during a year's time by a factor of 1.5 and to reach 330,000 tons. Reserves are available in all areas for accomplishing this. We are devoting special attention to raising the yields, improving the agrotechnical practices and achieving high quality storage for the seed of late potatoes. The scientists must also furnish an input in solving these problems.

Notable successes have been achieved in recent years in horticulture and viniculture throughout the republic. The area of orchard and vineyard plantings has increased considerably. Large-scale measures have been carried out aimed at developing and strengthening production concentration and specialization for fruit and grapes.

At the same time, we are still experiencing serious shortcomings in this branch. One reason for this is the failure to carry out a number of important measures on many farms. The orchards and vineyards are experiencing a shortage of irrigation water, they are not being supplied with adequate quantities of mineral and organic fertilizer, measures aimed at protecting orchards and

vineyards from pests and diseases are being carried out at an inadequate level and the degree of mechanization of working processes continues to remain low.

This year, 310,000 tons of fruit and 615,000 tons of grapes must be produced. This task will also be solved by means of intensive methods. In connection with raising the yields, considerable importance is being attached to the timely and high quality carrying out of all agrotechnical operations.

An important reserve for raising yields is that of using highly productive and high quality varieties, increasing the plantings of intensive orchards and expanding the assortment of fruits, especially stone fruit strains.

Exceptional importance is attached to the availability of pure-bred planting stock. The large scale of plantings of new orchards and vineyards requires the creation of additional bases for their cultivation. Serious work has already been started in this regard on many farms and many of them are obtaining 70,000-90,000 pure-bred and standard seedlings from each hectare. Included among them are the sovkhoses Denau, imeni K. Marks, Sakharnyy Trostnik, Kommunizm, Ogonek, imeni Lenin and others. Fog generating units have been built and are already in operation on some farms and here the yield of pure-bred and standard planting stock (with cultivation being carried out using the method of propagation by leaf or soft-wood cutting) amounts to 500,000-650,000 seedlings per hectare. The effectiveness of these units is high. They make it possible, at accelerated rates, to reproduce many fruit and grape varieties, especially new and valuable varieties.

This problem is of special urgency in the case of viticulture, since here the replacement of old plantings of vineyard strain mixtures by pure-bred table and seedless grape varieties is being carried out extremely slowly. As a result, almost one half of all of our areas is occupied by strain mixtures and technical varieties of grapes.

We are correcting this situation. We are undertaking measures aimed at completing during the 12th Five-Year Plan, in all areas and on all farms, modernization work on the areas of strain mixtures and technical varieties of grapes, the demand for which is decreasing sharply in connection with the measures being carried out at the present time throughout the country against drunkenness and alcoholism.

In the interest of carrying out the drying work during more favorable periods, grape varieties of the seedless grape type are being introduced into operations on a more extensive scale.

We are restoring, especially at sovkhoses in Surkhan-Darya, Kashka-Darya and Bukhara oblasts some of the more valuable and high yield table varieties of early ripening grapes, possessing high taste qualities, varieties such as Bozari, Ertapishar, Surkhok and Kitabskiy, which ripen in early July. We are intensifying work aimed at eliminating sparse stands and ensuring normal development for those seedlings grown for replacement purposes. Over the next few years, the plans call for all fruit-bearing vineyards to be cultivated using trellises.

The republic's fruit and vegetable economy is sustaining considerable losses in product yields and quality as a result of weak work in protecting the crops against agricultural pests and diseases. On many farms, this work is being carried out poorly, integrated protection for orchards and vineyards is being introduced into operations only slowly, protection against moths in orchards, especially against the fruit moth and the grapevine leaf-roller, is poorly organized and no use is being made of snares, despite the fact that science has furnished clear and simple recommendations for their use.

The level of mechanized operations at our sovkhozes is arousing serious concern. In Vegetable production, it amounts to 50 percent at the present time, potato production -- 62, horticulture -- 48 and in viniculture -- 52 percent. The proportion of manual labor is especially high during harvest operations.

In work concerned with increasing the mechanization of processes in the cultivation of vegetable crops, we are quite justified in expecting to receive a great amount of assistance from scientists and designers, especially the SKPTB of the Sredazselkhoz mash NPO /Scientific Production Association/. Work directed towards the creation of machines for the all-round mechanization of our branches must be accelerated, especially mechanisms for the planting, cultivation and harvesting of orchards and vineyards, which generally are still not available.

An important question is that of organizing procurements and deliveries. Throughout the republic, there are still very few points for the grading and marketable processing of fruit and vegetable products. This necessarily affects the timeliness of the crop harvesting work and the quality and preservation of the products.

The low level of farm specialization is lowering production efficiency sharply. Thus, in recent years specialization has been disrupted at a majority of the orchard and vineyard farms, especially at the Kibray Sovkhoz in Tashkent Oblast and at a number of sovkhozes in Namangan Oblast.

In order to solve the problem of increasing further the production of melon crops, the cultivation of these crops must be concentrated in special brigades, which work areas which are not less than 60-80 hectares in size and which have assigned to them permanent work forces, equipment and logistical resources. The farms must be provided with the required amounts of specialized equipment for the cultivation of melon crops, special attention must be given to ensuring that the brigades are supplied with regionalized planting stock and the sowing of this seed must be coordinated with the ripening periods.

Storehouses must be built on all of the farms for the vegetable and melon crops and in the brigades -- sheds for grading the products. For the purpose of stimulating material interest among the melon producers, payments in kind should ideally be established for fulfillment and over-fulfillment of the melon production plans. At the present time, in organizing this work, a sharp reduction is taking place in the number of crops and varieties being cultivated and farms specializing in the production of vegetables are being converted over to the production of 3-4 principal and 2-3 not too widespread crops. In the process, more extensive use will be made of graduated sowing and planting schedules. Intra-farm specialization will be introduced into operations.

Improvements in production efficiency will depend to a large degree upon the rates and quality of capital construction. Over the past few years, a considerable volume of construction work has been carried out on many farms and many production installations, housing and socio-cultural projects have been built and placed in operation.

However, even here there have been many shortcomings. Thus, on many farms, during planning and construction, the plans called for the use of an outdated technology and obsolete equipment. The financial and logistical resources are being dispersed among many projects. And indeed it is understandable that today, in the absence of solutions for the social problems, it is difficult to even hope to improve the efficiency of agricultural production.

An important condition for raising the interest of workers in the results of their own labor is the collective contract. It makes it possible to raise efficiency and the production volumes, it reduces losses to a minimum and it releases surplus workers for use on other tasks. The conversion of vegetable production brigades over to this form for labor organization and wages, in addition to other measures, will promote solutions for the tasks concerned with carrying out the Food Program.

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POST HARVEST CROP PROCESSING

RESULTS OF CENSUS OF FRUIT, BERRY PLANTINGS EXAMINED

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 86 p 2

[Article by A. Kireyev, agronomist: "Rights of a Stepchild"]

[Text] In our republic, the plans call for horticulture to be developed more extensively at kolkhozes and sovkhoses, on the private plots of the population and by horticultural associations. In order to present the prospects for developing this branch in a more clear and effective manner, a census was carried out on the fruit and berry plantings. Unfortunately, it revealed that the orchard areas had decreased in size by 28,600 hectares compared to 1970. The orchards of kolkhozes and sovkhoses are very sparse. They are especially sparse on farms in Gomelskiy, Goretskiy, Smolevichskiy, Novogrudskiy, Mozyrskiy, Orshanskiy, Lioznenskiy and Matislavskiy rayons. Trees ranging in age from 26 to 50 years and older predominate in the orchards. The varietal structure of apple tree plantings is represented mainly by such varieties as Antonovka, Pepin Shafranny, Shtreyfling and Belyy Maliv. The remaining varieties are not too widespread.

Compared to 1970, the berry patch areas have also declined in size at kolkhozes and goskhoses and there are fewer such patches among the population.

On the whole, the level of development of horticulture throughout the republic is not in keeping with the modern requirements at the present time. The assortment and quality of the fruit are not satisfying the needs of the consumers or the processing industry for raw materials. The varietal structure is poor. Autumn and early winter ripening varieties predominate in the orchards and there are very few varieties which are capable of being maintained in fresh form during the winter. The perennial plantings are not being supplied with adequate amounts of organic or mineral fertilizer and pruning and other measures concerned with tending the trunks and crowns of fruit trees are being carried out in a poor manner. The inter-row spacings of orchards are undergoing extended natural regrassing and a campaign is not being waged against pests and diseases. Thus the productivity of the trees is decreasing sharply. On many farms, horticulture is in a neglected state and is the most neglected branch of agriculture.

Today one rarely encounters locally grown apples, pears, plums or cherries in our stores. For the most part, the fruit being sold has been imported from other republics and even countries and the quality of this fruit is considerably

inferior to our own varieties. The principal reasons for such a situation: first of all, poorly organized work in behalf of the entire system of fruit procurements, storage and processing; secondly, the absence of proper control over fulfillment of the planned tasks for fruit production and procurements. Indeed, the further development of this branch is dependent to a large degree upon proper planning for the production, procurements and processing of horticultural products. The fruit and berries now being purchased are being used mainly for processing. The plan generally does not call for fruit to be sold to the population in fresh form. Each year there is no market for a large portion of the products being produced at kolkhozes and sovkhoses or by the population and as a result the fruit is either fed to the livestock or allowed to rot.

In order to ensure that the population is supplied with fruit in accordance with the full physiological and scientifically sound norm -- 106 kilograms per capita -- approximately 1 million tons must be produced and procured annually. With an average cropping power of 50-60 quintals per hectare, the existing orchards can ensure such a gross yield. Thus, prior to the creation of industrial horticulture at specialized farms, it will be necessary to restore and place in proper working order both the public and private orchards of the population and carry out renewal pruning and a complex of required agro-technical operations.

However, the farms and the population are annually experiencing difficulties in acquiring planting stock for replacement purposes and for the planting of new orchards. In order to eliminate this shortage, up to 1.5 million fruit crop seedlings and 3 million berry bush seedlings must be produced in the republic annually. Their production at the present time is roughly one fourth of the amount needed.

In recent years, many farms have begun writing off orchards instead of carrying out the work required for horticultural development. According to data obtained during the census, more than 6,000 hectares of as yet not stubbed-out orchard areas have been uncovered at kolkhozes and goskhoses throughout the republic. In particular, large areas of orchards have been written off in Baranovichskiy, Borisovskiy, Navizhskiy, Orshanskoy, Buda-Koshelevskiy, Dubrovenskoy, Volkovysskiy, Berazovskiy, Vetkovskiy, Postavskiy, Shumilinskoy, Bobruyskiy, Lyakhovichskiy, Braginskoy, Grodnenskoy and Kretskoy rayons. It would obviously be proper for the rayon executive committees and the agroproms to examine the problem of the further use of neglected orchards on those farms where a shortage of labor resources is being experienced. Small orchard tracts could be turned over to schools and larger tracts could be assigned to industrial enterprises. On those farms where there is ample man-power, a special horticultural brigade should be organized and horticulture should be converted over to the contractual system for labor organization.

We cannot agree with those who maintain that small orchards are unprofitable and should be eliminated. As an additional branch, horticulture, on many farms where it is given proper attention, is profitable and produces considerable income.

For example, at the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Stolinskoy Rayon, an orchard consisting of 118 hectares annually produces 200,000-300,000 rubles worth of

profit and the profitability level is considerably higher than that for other branches. Horticulture is also profitable at the Brilevo Sovkhoz in Gomel Oblast and at the kolkhozes Progress in Grodnenskiy and Rassvet and Imeni K.P. Orlovskiy in Kirovskiy rayons, which specialize in the production of livestock products.

Each farm requires an orchard from another standpoint. Fruit is needed for the dining tables and for the kindergartens and nurseries. In addition, an orchard carries out protective functions between residential and production zones and it improves the microclimate of a settlement.

We cannot tolerate a situation wherein housing and production installations are being planned and built in the place of orchards, as is happening for example at the Rassvet Kolkhoz in Baranovichskiy Rayon and on a number of other farms. The use of orchard tracts for construction purposes amounts to the squandering of very fertile land. According to the data obtained from a land evaluation based upon quality, for example, the average grade for feed lands at kolkhozes and goskhozes throughout the republic is 28 points, arable land -- 40 and orchards -- 44 points. Such land, even with the stubbing out of the orchards, must be utilized for the growing of highly intensive crops and for increasing the yields of agricultural products.

However, many such fertile lands have in recent years been sacrificed in an irresponsible manner for the construction of villages and cities, with the orchards on them being destroyed. But even orchards which fall within the boundaries of a city can become a part of that city and schools will thus be able to instill in their children a respectful and thrifty attitude towards nature, the land and their work. In the GDR, each school has its own orchard and each child is obligated to perform some work on it. The students participate in exhibits and they work as others do, in accordance with a scientific program and the fruit of their labor is equally as important as that being performed by adults.

Collective horticulture, which provides assistance in satisfying the requirements of city populations for fruit and berries, has undergone considerable development in Belorussia. There are now more than 1,500 horticultural associations, with a personnel strength of 170,000, operating within the republic. In addition, there are 140,000 more manual and office workers who have expressed a desire to become members of these associations. In addition to supplying themselves with fruit, the members of these associations also sell a considerable portion of their output to the state. However, each year they experience more difficulties in marketing the products which they grow. The decree of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belorussia and the BSSR Council of Ministers entitled "Private Plots of Kolkhoz Members, Manual and Office Workers and Other Citizens" tasked the oblast executive committees and the corresponding ministries and departments with undertaking measures aimed at expanding the production and improving the purchases of surplus agricultural products from the population. Unfortunately, as yet very little has been accomplished in this regard.

Voluntary horticultural societies (councils) have been created in a number of union republics for the purpose of uniting disconnected horticultural

associations. These societies combine the labor and financial resources of the horticultural associations and direct their efforts towards solving those problems which each association individually is unable to solve. Such an association in our republic could become a genuine organizer for fruit and berry production among the population and serve as an intermediary between the producers and procurement specialists under mutually advantageous conditions. An especially great role is played by such associations in organizing the marketing of products grown.

Utilization of the potential possessed by private plots constitutes an important reserve for increasing the production of agricultural products and improving the supply of such products for the population. With regard to furnishing practical assistance to the population in the scientific management of horticulture, in supplying planting stock and in the storage, processing and marketing of the finished products, a requirement exists for creating oblast, municipal and rayon horticultural societies within the republic. They must unite and coordinate the work both of members of horticultural associations and all amateur horticulturists in the cities and rural areas.

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POST HARVEST CROP PROCESSING

VEGETABLE PROCESSING SHORTCOMINGS CRITICIZED

Minsk SELSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Aug 86 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Slowdown in the Vegetable Production Line"]

/Text/ In the People's Control Committee for the BSSR

During a regular meeting, the People's Control Committee for the BSSR examined the question of how BSSR Gosagroprom and its subordinate organizations, enterprises and farms are carrying out the requirements of the directive organs with regard to increasing the production and ensuring the preservation of fruit and vegetable products and early potatoes and also improving the supply of these products for the population during the current year. It was noted that vegetable purchases have increased somewhat throughout the republic. At the same time, it was emphasized that the Main Administration for the Production and Processing of Fruit and Vegetable Products and Potatoes of BSSR Gosagroprom is still only slowly reorganizing the work in light of the requirements handed down during the 27th Party Congress and is not making full use of the opportunities available for increasing the production of fruit and vegetable products and early potatoes and for preserving them.

This work was not organized in a satisfactory manner by the Mogilev Oblast agroindustrial committee. During 7 months of this year, nine out of 14 specialized farms failed to fulfill their plans for the sale of vitamin products. On 18 August 1986, the purchases of vegetables throughout the oblast were lower by 600 tons than the figure for last year. The sovkhozes Goretskiy in Goretskiy Rayon, Protasevichi in Osipovichskiy Rayon, Makhovo in Mogilevskiy Rayon and imeni Smolyachkov and Kholstovo in Bykhovskiy Rayon did not fulfill their obligations. The agricultural practices employed for the cultivation of vegetable crops and early potatoes were not followed on the farms, the crops were not tended properly and many tracts and fields became overgrown with weeds. As a result of untimely weed control and cultivation work, 12 hectares of carrots perished for all practical purposes at the Sovkhoz imeni Smolyachkov. Approximately 2 hectares of table beets are in a neglected state here.

Nor is the situation any better at the Mokryanskiy Sovkhoz. In accordance with an agreement with the Bykhov Canning and Vegetable Drying Plant, it promised to sell 250 tons of table beets. However, the crop was never sown. Instead, it planted green peas on 35 hectares and yet this crop became overripe and

unsuitable for canning. Its carrots, potatoes and approximately 40 percent of its cabbage became overgrown with weeds.

Very little attention is being given to the production of vegetables or to the observance of contractual discipline on a number of farms of the Vitebsk Oblast agroprom. The Surazhskiy Sovkhoz in Vitebskiy Rayon did not supply Vitebsk with early potatoes, table beets or cucumbers, even though it had contracted to supply it in July with 60, 15 and 15 tons of these crops respectively.

Unrealistic indicators for the sale of tomatoes were stipulated in the contract. The branch is being managed at a low level on the farm. Fifteen hectares of potatoes became overgrown with weeds and approximately one half hectare of cabbage seedlings remained unsold.

The Vesna Hothouse Combine undersupplied Polotsk in the following amounts: 56 tons of cucumbers, 2.8 tons of dill and 0.2 tons of celery and it did not supply any radishes or onions whatsoever. The shortfall in cucumbers (hothouse) during the month of April, caused by infestation of the plants by pests, amounted to 150 tons -- approximately one third. A lack of proper attention to vegetable growing operations at the Sovkhoz imeni Uglovskiy in Vitebskiy Rayon produced a situation wherein 9 hectares of radishes, 4 of summer radishes and 1 hectare of table turnips had to be replowed.

The non-fulfillment of contractual obligations and irregular deliveries of fruit and vegetable products and early potatoes from farms, storehouses and trade organization bases to stores precluded the possibility of these products being sold in a broad assortment during daily trade. Of 95 stores checked throughout the republic, 32 had no potatoes, 31 -- no carrots, 21 -- no table beets, 33 -- no common onions and at 29 there were no fresh cucumbers. At many trade enterprises, there was no parsley, dill, celery, summer radishes, cauliflower, marrow squash or rhubarb.

It was revealed that the preparation of the logistical base for receiving the potatoes and fruit and vegetable products is not being carried out satisfactorily at enterprises of Gosagroprom. At the Chaussy vegetable-drying plant, for example, a potato storage facility for 1,000 tons became clogged with rot last year and repair of the unit has still not been carried out. There is no dividing line between new and written off equipment. Equipment valued at tens of thousands of rubles is stored on the territory of the enterprise in the absence of the required fencing.

It was also noted that the deputy chairman of BSSR Gosagroprom L.M. Chura and the chief of the Administration for Planning Capital Construction and Modernization V.V. Orlovskiy acted in an irresponsible manner in carrying out the plan for the construction of potato and vegetable storehouses. During 7 months of this year, such storehouses with a capacity for only 2,600 tons were placed in operation, against an annual plan calling for 34,200 tons. Moreover, the financial and material resources were not defined for 22,000 tons.

The leaders of organizations of Belselstroy /Belorussian Rural Construction/ and Belkoopsoyuz /Belorussian Union of Consumer's Societies/ did not reorganize

their operations. Here the erection of storehouses is considered to be a matter of secondary importance and thus such work is neglected. Such installations are not fully supported in the form of materials, mechanisms, equipment or personnel. The annual limit for construction installation work by Belselstroy was realized by only 30-40 percent, despite the fact that for the system as a whole the figure was 62 percent. The sovkhoses Korovchino in Goretskiy Rayon and Pochapovski in Baranovichski Rayon fell seriously behind in the construction of storehouses.

The deputy chairman of Belkoopsoyuz V.A. Lapets earlier failed to undertake measures aimed at eliminating incidents of mismanagement and he tolerated a lack of control in preparation of the logistical base and in the construction of installations and these facts were pointed out to him by the BSSR KNK /People's Control Committee/. Again this year the construction of facilities for the storage of fruit and vegetable products is being carried out at slow rates. The modernization of a storehouse attached to a department for the rapid freezing of fruits in the city of Bobruysk has been dragged out. Here work has not yet commenced on a cooling tower, the installation of equipment is proceeding very slowly, despite the fact that the installation should have been placed in operation during the 3d quarter. Of four underway projects, not one was introduced into operations during the first 6 months. The deputy chairman and chief of the Main Administration for the Production and Processing of Fruit and Vegetable Products and Potatoes of BSSR Gosagroprom N.M. Rybak was reprimanded for weak organizational work in carrying out the requirements of the directive organs with regard to increasing the production of fruit and vegetable products and early potatoes and their preservation and in improving the supply of such products for the population and for a lack of proper exactingness being imposed upon the leaders of agroindustrial committees and associations. He was warned concerning his personal responsibility for maintaining proper order.

The deputy chairman of the Mogilev Oblast Agroindustrial Committee V.A. Semenko was also reprimanded for a low level of management of the vegetable production branch, which resulted in sowings of vegetable crops and potatoes being neglected on many farms, for non-fulfillment of planned and contractual deliveries, for low quality output and also for violations of the rules of trade.

The deputy chairman of the Vitebsk Oblast Agroindustrial Committee I.I. Kosyanenko also deserves strict punishment for shortcomings in management of the vegetable production branch, for non-fulfillment of planned and contractual deliveries and for low quality output. In view of the short duration of his service in this position, the BSSR KNK restricted its involvement to a mere discussion of the problem.

A strong reprimand was handed down to the deputy chief of the Main Administration for Capital Construction and Modernization V.V. Orlovski for his irresponsible attitude towards the planning for and organization of the construction of vegetable and potato storehouses and for failure to carry out the tasks assigned by the directive organs. If he does not restore proper order in planning, even more strict punitive measures will be imposed against him.

The deputy chairman of the Board of Belkoopsoyuz V.A. Lapets, for systematically failing to undertake measures aimed at ensuring timely preparation of the vegetable and fruit storehouses and their construction, should be dismissed from his post. But in view of his assurance that all of the underway construction projects for the storage of fruit and vegetable products will be placed in operation in September of this year, the question concerning his work will be reviewed in October of this year.

The deputy chairman of the board of Belselstroy V.N. Vetrov should be punished for failing to undertake measures aimed at ensuring fulfillment of the January-to-July plan for the construction of storehouses for vegetables, fruit and potatoes. Taking into account the short duration of his service in this position and his assurance that the installations will be placed in operation, the BSSR KNK limited its involvement in this case to merely issuing a warning.

The people's control groups of enterprises, organizations and farms of BSSR Gosagroprom have been tasked with intensifying control over management of the vegetable and potato production branches, preservation of the products in the areas where they are grown, the release of products to bases and stores, sales to the population and the construction of storehouses.

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CSO: 1824/002

POST HARVEST CROP PROCESSING

FRUIT, VEGETABLE PROCUREMENTS AND STORAGE FOR WINTER

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 86 p 1

Lead article: "Vegetables for the Winter"

Text The republic has been confronted with the task of satisfying completely its own requirements for potatoes and vegetables. This is a difficult but nonetheless realistic task. The delivery volumes for fruit and vegetable products are increasing annually. This year more than one half million tons of vegetables, potatoes, fruit and melon crops will be produced.

But the production of goods and the delivery of such goods to the consumer are by no means the same. As a result of poor organization of the harvesting and transport work and owing to the absence of the conditions required for winter storage, the losses in products amount to 20-30 percent of the overall volume. The enterprises of the republic's Gosagroprom and the consumer cooperatives must undertake all of the measures required for ensuring that the products grown reach the consumer in full volume, the best form and in good condition.

At the present time, vegetables and fruit are being delivered to the trade enterprises in large quantities. Within the Gosagroprom system there are 570 fixed stores, approximately 500 pavilions and 700 seasonal trade points. It would seem that these are impressive figures and yet a thorough study of the matter reveals that we still lack true conditions for the sale of vegetables and fruit within the trade network. Quite often, warehouse facilities are lacking or the refrigeration capabilities are not adequate. As a result, the fruit and vegetable trade workers, in order to prevent the fresh fruit and grapes from becoming spoiled, refuse to accept them. The suppliers understandably suffer -- the sovkhoses and kolkhoses and the populations of cities.

The trade workers in a number of cities, in order to preserve their products better and utilize motor transport equipment more efficiently, are beginning to introduce container shipments on a more extensive scale. The sale of fruit, vegetables and potatoes in containers was carried out earlier only in Pavlodar, Karaganda and Saran. This season, Alma-Ata, Kustanay, Petropavlovsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk have joined in this valuable undertaking. The container trade makes it possible to improve the culture of services for the population and it furnishes an opportunity for supplying those rayons which still lack stores and pavilions with the needed food products.

The expanding trade network requires centralized control over the importing of products. In Kustanay, for example, a special dispatcher service was created at a fruit and vegetable base. With the aid of radio stations at the vegetable sovkhozes and in stores, a dispatcher can ascertain and provide accurate information on the quantities of vegetables required and also the number of vehicles required for transporting them. The farm leaders can accurately assign the number of people needed for procuring the vegetables. This serves to provide greater operational organization and planning and it promotes the elimination of losses during transport operations.

Some of the farms, now able this year to sell up to 30 percent of their output at markets, created their own stores and pavilions and are carrying on a trade at market prices. The Kolkhoz imeni XXIV Partsyeyda in Talgarskiy Rayon and the sovkhozes Sotsializm in Enbekshikazakhskiy Rayon and Prigorodnyy, Leninskiy and imeni Dzhandozov in Kaskelenskiy Rayon in Alma-Ata Oblast have their own stores at markets in the capital. Similar stores have been created in Chimkent, Karaganda and Pavlodar oblasts. However, it must be confessed that the network of such stores is being developed extremely slowly. There are either no stores whatsoever or an insufficient number of them in Guryev, Aktyubinsk and Ural oblasts. Obviously, one cannot rely upon the economic interest of the economic leaders here.

Work is now commencing in connection with vegetable, fruit and melon procurements for the winter. Approximately 320,000 tons of potatoes and 222,000 tons of fresh and processed vegetables will be placed in storage. Certainly, these amounts are considered inadequate when one takes into account the fact that city-dwellers as a rule do not have conditions at home for the storage of fruit and vegetables. But it is not always possible to preserve that which is placed in storage for the winter. This derives from the fact that many sovkhozes and kolkhozes supply the fruit and vegetable trade bases with low quality products. And the potatoes and vegetables spoil in the storehouses for several reasons: a shortage of refrigeration equipment, the technology for the storage of products is not followed completely, the departments lack the capability entirely or they have only a weak capability for processing sub-standard products.

Under these conditions, we must ensure that the fruit and vegetable bases are supplied only with high quality products. In order to accomplish this, the agroprom committees in Alma-Ata and Kustanay oblasts are assigning trade specialists to the fruit and vegetable and potato production kolkhozes and sovkhozes. They will exercise control over the quality of the goods being shipped.

At the same time, the party and soviet organs in the various areas must devote serious attention to the preparation of the vegetable bases and storehouses and to the rapid completion of construction work on new warehouse facilities and the modernization of old ones, so as to ensure that genuine preparations are made for receiving this year's harvest. The problem of preparing the vegetable storehouses is especially serious in Alma-Ata, where they are unable to complete construction on a third storehouse unit, place in operation an inertial-unloading machine or improve air cooling operations in the first and second storehouses of the 12th Fruit and Vegetable Base.

The Tselinograd and Kustanay workers are serving as a fine example in the procurement of vegetables for the winter. They are achieving fine solutions for such problems as the creation of refrigeration capabilities, container transporting of products and the mechanization of loading and unloading operations.

In the procurement of vegetables, potatoes and fruit, a special role is played by the enterprises of Kazpotrebsoyuz. These enterprises can and must improve their operations and increase considerably their purchases of products from the population. In recent years, the network of consumer cooperative stores has expanded somewhat and increases have taken place in the purchases of vegetables and fruit. There is a definite advantage to be realized from cooperative trade: during the 11th Five-Year Plan, the republic's population saved 266 million rubles as a result of lower prices compared to the market prices for goods. At the same time, certain problems still remain: the logistical base of the oblast unions of consumer cooperatives is weak and container transport for fruit and vegetables has not been organized properly and this adversely affects their quality. Receiving points for vegetable and fruit procurements, attached to horticultural associations, have not been created in all areas and in some areas these points lack the transport equipment needed for shipping the products from remote areas. As a result, in the southern oblasts of Kazakhstan, where fine yields of apples, pears, and plums developed this year, the fruit is perishing. Serious thought must be given to the best means for correcting this situation. One such solution -- purchasing dry fruit from the population.

The party organs and the soviets of people's deputies must exercise constant control over the tense work being carried out today in connection with the procurements of vegetables, potatoes, fruit and melon crops for the winter. An increase in food goods and an improvement in the supply of such goods for the population -- this is a requirement of the 27th Party Congress and the 16th Congress of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan.

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CSO: 1824/001

LIVESTOCK FEED PROCUREMENT

GLINKA REVIEWS SILAGE PROCUREMENT

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 22 Aug 86 p 1

/Article by M. Glinka: "Quality of Silage"/

/Text/ The USSR Central Statistical Administration has reported that the nutritional value of the coarse and succulent feed procured prior to 18 August amounted to almost 72 million tons of feed units. The greatest proportion is provided by hay -- 63.9 million tons of it were placed in storage -- 28.9 million tons of feed units. Roughly 63.4 million tons of haylage were placed in storage -- 20.7 million tons of feed units. Silage-making operations are expanding on an increasing scale. Thirty five million tons of silage have already been obtained.

Immediately following the haying operations, the country's kolkhozes and sovkhoses commenced procuring the chief winter feed -- silage. This year, more than 279 million tons of this succulent feed, containing in excess of 50 million tons of feed units, must be placed in storage. This represents 36 percent of the overall planned amount. Here is how the work of procuring silage is proceeding in the union republics.

	Thousands of Tons	In % of Plan
RSFSR	24947	16
Ukraine	4177	7
Belorussia	1866	17
Uzbekistan	506	12
Kazakhstan	151	0.6
Georgia	306	26
Azerbaijan	197	13
Lithuania	991	27
Moldavia	91	2
Latvia	354	21
Kirghizia	175	6
Tajikistan	486	47
Armenia	286	36
Turkmenistan	328	31
Estonia	149	19

In the Russian Federation, the farmers in Kostroma Oblast are closest of all to fulfilling their plan for laying in silage. Here 913,000 tons of silage bulk have been placed in storage, including 524,000 tons with chemical preservatives. Approximately 593,000 tons of prepared silage, or 77 percent of the task, have already been obtained. More than one fifth of the feed placed in storage has been enriched with nitrogen-containing additives. The task of laying in silage has been fulfilled by more than one half in Arkhangelsk, Vologda, Ivanovo, Sakhalin, Kirov and Yaroslavl oblasts and by more than one third in the Tatar and Udmurt autonomous republics and in Novgorod, Vladimir, Kalinin, Smolensk and Saratov oblasts.

The period for carrying out silage-making operations on a mass scale is determined by the specialists mainly on the basis of the phase of plant development. For example, the chief silage crop, corn, is best harvested for silage during the phase of waxy ripeness in the grain. The feed prepared from such raw material, as revealed during studies carried out at the All-Union Institute of Feed, contains 89 percent dry substance, whereas when the plants are harvested during milky-waxy ripeness -- 85 and during milky ripeness -- only 78 percent. And whereas in the first instance we procure feed the nutritional value of a quintal of which is 27 feed units, in the latter case we obtain 10 feed units less.

There is still another factor which indicates a need for delaying the start of the corn harvest for silage -- with each passing day, a plantation of this crop accumulates more nutrients. During tests carried out at this same institute, 7,000 feed units and 3.1 quintals of digestible protein were obtained per hectare of corn harvested during the phase of waxy ripeness in the grain. During the period of milky ripeness in the grain, 2,620 feed units and 60 kilograms of protein were obtained and during the period of milky-waxy ripeness -- 1,280 feed units and 50 kilograms of protein less. When the corn was cut down even earlier, more than 2,800 feed units and 110 kilograms of protein were lost per hectare. Such arithmetic is rather convincing. Nevertheless, corn is still often being cut down for silage considerably ahead of schedule.

What are the optimum harvest periods for other silage crops? For sunflowers -- from the beginning to half way through the blossoming period and for Sudan grass -- tasseling. Sorghum is best harvested during the phase of waxy ripeness in the grain and vetch-oats and pea-oats mixtures and fodder lupine -- during the period of shining beans in the lower areas. In any case, the moisture content of the silage raw material must not exceed 70 percent. Towards this end, excessively damp bulk should be mixed with straw chop and the grasses should be sun-dried. When ensiling plants the moisture content of which exceeds 75 percent, one fourth of the nutrients is lost.

The entire silage-making technology is dependent upon this indicator. For example, let us take the degree of chopping of the raw material. Compared to the optimum moisture content (60-70 percent), when the bulk is chopped into particles not larger than 1.5 centimeters, for a moisture content of 75 percent -- 2-3 and for a moisture content of 80 percent or more -- 4-5 centimeters.

Certainly, when determining the time for the commencement of silage-making work, a specialist must take into account a multitude of factors in addition to the

plant development phase. One such chief factor is the weather. In those areas where the corn has begun to dry out while standing, it can hardly be expected to continue its growth. Delays in harvesting this crop are also dangerous in those zones where early frosts are possible. This fact was not taken into consideration in some rayons in Gorkiy Oblast and, as a result, crop losses ensued.

Obviously once the silage harvesting work has commenced, it should be carried out at high rates and as rapidly as possible. A chief concern here is to ensure highly efficient use of the equipment involved. The operation of equipment is not being organized properly in all areas. The farms in Tajikistan should already have completed their work of harvesting corn for silage. However, as yet only 47 percent of the planned amount of feed has been obtained. In Nikolayev, Kharkov, Sumy and some other oblasts in the Ukraine, many silage harvesting combines were not prepared for operations in a timely manner. The harvesting equipment on a number of farms in Bukhar, Dzhizak and Navoi oblasts in Uzbekistan is lying inactive.

The quality of the silage can be raised noticeably if use is made of chemical preservatives. At the Leninskiy Put Kolkhoz in Shebekinskiy Rayon in Belgorod Oblast, all of the succulent feed is being treated with a concentrate of low-molecular acids. As revealed by a test carried out on the farm, the retention of nutrients increases as a result of this treatment by 25-30 percent, the daily weight increase in young bulls which are fed this feed is raised by 300 or more grams and increases are also noted in the dairy cattle milk yields. Following the example of this kolkhoz, all farms in the rayon are mastering this chemical preservation method. A local association of Selkhozkhimiya has built a storehouse on its territory for storing the concentrate of low-molecular acids and it is making sure that it is available for use by all farms in the region. Unfortunately, this fine example is not being properly supported throughout the oblast. Of 798,000 tons of silage bulk, only 234,000 tons were treated with chemical preservatives. In Tambov Oblast the preservative supplies are sufficient for treating more than 60 percent of the silage bulk and yet only slightly more than 33 percent has been so treated. This valuable technological method is being employed in completely inadequate amounts in Krasnodar Kray and in Vologda, Orel, Voronezh, Volgograd, Penza, Orenburg and Perm oblasts. Meanwhile, chemical preservation is not to be considered as an emergency means for use in the event of inclement weather, but rather it is a mandatory technological method.

Quite often one even hears specialists stating that "high quality silage smells like freshly baked rye_bread." This typical characteristic has even been included in the GOST /State Standard/ as an important basis for classifying feed as being of 3d class quality. Indeed, it derives the bread aroma from the final products of protein disintegration. Such silage is obtained as a result of a crude violation of the technology or when the feed is stored in poorly hermetically sealed storehouses, clamps or piles. Good quality concrete trenches are not available in all areas. In this regard, the experience of the Krasnyy Oktyabr Kolkhoz in Stolbtsovskiy Rayon in Minsk Oblast is of definite interest. Here a mixture of chopped corn and 25-30 percent straw and also a mass of cruciferae family crops, the moisture content of which was 72-73 percent, were stored in haylage towers reinforced by additional metal bands. Outstanding feed was obtained, 1 kilogram of which contains 0.29 feed units. It is believed that this method will be employed by many farms this season.

LIVESTOCK

CPSU CC REVIEWS LIVESTOCK COMPETITION RESULTS

Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 24 Aug 86 p 1

Article: "In the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee"/

Excerpt/ The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee have examined the results of the all-union socialist competition for successfully carrying out the livestock wintering program and for increasing the production and purchases of livestock husbandry products during the 1985/86 winter period.

In the decree adopted concerning this problem, the agricultural workers and workers attached to other branches of the agroindustrial complex have actively joined in the practical implementation of the program outlined by the party for accelerating the socio-economic development of soviet society, they carried out the livestock wintering program in an organized manner and they achieved an increase in the production of livestock husbandry products. During the wintering period, throughout the country as a whole, a substantial increase was realized in the production of meat, milk and eggs as a result of intensive factors and the plans for purchases of these products were over-fulfilled. From October 1985 until July 1986, 3.9 percent more livestock and poultry were added to the state resources compared to the preceding wintering period, 5.5 percent more milk and 4.3 percent more eggs. An increase took place in the production of livestock products at subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations.

The workers on many farms in the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, Belorussian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Moldavian SSR, Tajik SSR and other union republics, based upon the introduction of progressive forms for production and labor organization, cost accounting and the collective contract, improvements in the production culture, improved order and organization and the efficient use of feed, achieved increased productivity for their livestock and poultry, fulfilled their plans and socialist obligations ahead of schedule and made a worthy contribution towards carrying out the USSR Food Program.

The successful carrying out of the livestock wintering program was promoted by an extensively deployed socialist competition, increased work and social activity by farm workers as a result of preparations for the 27th CPSU Congress

and decisions handed down during the congress and also measures implemented for the purpose of further improving administration and the economic mechanism for management in the country's agroindustrial complex, focusing increased attention on the working conditions of the livestock breeders and improving their cultural-domestic, medical and trade services.

At the same time, as noted in the decree, some kolkhozes, sovkhoses and rayon agroindustrial associations are not making full use of the increasing opportunities available for raising the productivity of the livestock and poultry and for further intensifying the production and purchases of livestock husbandry products. Farms in the Uzbek SSR did not fulfill their plan for purchases of livestock, poultry, milk and eggs during the wintering period. Compared to the previous winter period, the volume of meat and milk production and purchases declined in Bryansk and Smolensk oblasts and decreases were noted in the sale of livestock and poultry in the Kirghiz SSR, Buryat ASSR, Mordovian ASSR, Chechen -Ingush ASSR, Chuvash ASSR, Aktyubinsk, Amur, Dzhezkazgan, Zaporozhye, Ivanovo, Kostroma, Magadan, Nikolayev, Orenburg, Ryazan, North Kazakhstan, Semipalatinsk, Kharkov, Tselinograd and Chita oblasts and milk production and sales fell in the Yakut ASSR and in Novgorod, Pskov, Sumy, Tula and some other oblasts.

The deterioration in operational results came about as a result of a reduction in the level of technological discipline, a weakening in organizational and mass-political work in the labor collectives, shortcomings in organizing the competition and the absence of proper concern for creating proper conditions for highly productive work by workers attached to livestock farms and complexes.

The leaders and specialists of kolkhozes, sovkhoses and other agricultural enterprises, the councils of rayon agroindustrial associations and agroindustrial committees and the party, soviet, trade union and komsomol organs must analyze the results of the past wintering campaign thoroughly and completely, undertake urgent measures aimed at correcting the shortcomings uncovered and they must do everything possible to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the production and purchase plans for meat, milk and other livestock products and to increase the production of high quality food products.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee have announced the winners in the all-union socialist competition for successfully carrying out the livestock wintering program and for increasing the production and purchases of livestock husbandry products during the 1985/86 winter period and they have issued honorary certificates of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee as follows:

Union republics: RSFSR, Ukrainian SSR, Belorussian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Moldavian SSR and Tajik SSR.

Autonomous republics, krays and oblasts: RSFSR -- Tatar ASSR, Udmurt ASSR, Krasnodar Kray, Krasnoyarsk Kray, Stavropol Kray, Khabarovsk Kray, Belgorod Oblast, Kaluga Oblast, Kirov Oblast, Leningrad Oblast, Lipetsk Oblast, Moscow Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Saratov Oblast, Sverdlovsk Oblast, Tomsk Oblast and Tyumen Oblast.

Ukrainian SSR -- Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, Donetsk Oblast, Crimean Oblast, Poltava Oblast, Kherson Oblast, Khmel'nitskiy Oblast;

Belorussian SSR -- Brest Oblast;

Uzbek SSR -- Tashkent Oblast;

Kazakh SSR -- Alma-Ata Oblast, Kokchetav Oblast, Pavlodar Oblast, Turgay Oblast;

Georgian SSR -- Adzhar ASSR;

Azerbaijan SSR -- Nakhichevan ASSR;

Kirghiz SSR -- Osh Oblast;

Tajik SSR -- Leninabad Oblast;

Turkmen SSR -- Mary Oblast.

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CSO: 1824/459

AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

LEGAL EXPERT COMMENTS ON PRIVATE PLOT INCOME

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20, 21 Aug 86

[20 Aug 86 p 3]

[Text] It is presently believed that the private economy is of public benefit. This formula defines not only the mutual interest between the private plots of citizens and society but also the chief criterion for further improving the legal relationships in this particular socio-economic sphere. Thus a chief concern is mutual interest. This includes mutual rights and responsibilities. But where is that limit beyond which the legal income from private plots suddenly becomes illegal? It is well-known that private plots as a rule derive from and are dependent upon kolkhozes and sovkhoses and thus they are referred to as subsidiary enterprises. But what is this dependence based upon? Who must furnish assistance to the private plots and in what manner?

Unfortunately, it must be stated that many conflicting situations are arising at the present time, as borne out by the mail being sent in to IZVESTIYA, situations which derive not only from an incorrect interpretation of existing legislation in the various areas but also from insufficient development of certain legal norms which define the status of a citizen engaged in managing a private plot.

A senior legal consultant at the Sovkhoz imeni 60-Letiya USSR in Moscow Oblast, Candidate of Legal Sciences V.A. Bogorad, furnishes his comments concerning letters sent in by readers.

"My wife and I work at a sovkhos. With three children, we live in a two-room apartment 32 square meters in size. We wished to turn it over to the sovkhos and, while still young, undertake the construction of our own home and thus be able to maintain a private plot. It turns out that everything favors our decision but the law -- it prohibits such action from taking place. First of all, construction is authorized only for those who are waiting to obtain housing, that is, those who have less than 5 square meters per individual. Secondly, a house cannot be placed simply anywhere: there is no free land

available. Although one half of the tracts are occupied by people who long ago were retired from the sovkhoz. Yes, one works at the sovkhoz for one or two years and he is provided with a private plot. But it is said that they cannot select their own tracts. But in return they have hothouses, strawberry patches and other arrangements. Their situation is better than that of the sovkhoz workers. Moreover, they need not work on weekends or remain late out on the fields. But where is the social fairness?"

Nikolay and Valentina Fokin
Moscow Oblast

Alas, today this is a very typical and difficult-to-solve situation. Truly, only those who need to improve their housing conditions can build their own dwelling. And the rule for determining this need is the same -- both for applicants for state apartments and for those desiring to build their own home: the housing space per family member must not be lower than the level defined by the oblast executive committee (usually 5 or 6 square meters). The fact that an applicant for building his own home is obligated to turn over his apartment to the state (or to the kolkhoz) is not taken into account. Unfortunately, I am unable to console the authors of the letter. I can only state, and with complete confidence, that in this instance we are dealing with a clear example of how legal regulation is lagging today behind the requirements of life.

The question with regard to the profitable use of sovkhoz land by those who do not work at the sovkhoz is even more serious. With regard to "hothouses and strawberry patches," the investment of manual labor in the intensive cultivation of vegetables and fruit which are in short supply can only be welcomed, especially when one takes into account the fact that there is a shortage of strawberries in the stores.

There is still another problem. The right to a private plot serves as a stimulus for performing work in the rural areas. However, such an intent can obviously gradually dissipate, since work at a sovkhoz is taken into account only when obtaining a private plot and subsequently it is not considered in connection with land utilization. The norms for land legislation in this sense have not changed over a period of many years, despite changing conditions. It is difficult not to share the indignation of the Fokin family and yet as a lawyer I regret that I am unable to provide a constructive answer to the question raised.

"I do not know to whom I should write. I removed my mother from the country and expressed a desire to take over her house and plot. Permission was not granted. It could only be sold. But if my mother died, then I could take over her property. It turns out that city-dwellers generally are not authorized to have private plots. Is this not so?"

N. Khromov
Kaluga

Let us first study why it was that you were not allowed to take over the house and plot. Certainly, your parents have the right to dispose of their belongings as they wish. But the house stands on land and the land is owned by the state.

It cannot be purchased or obtained in the form of a gift. A tract of land can be obtained only for use and yet even here one must have a right to claim such use. Nor is an exception made for those who acquire dwellings in rural areas: plots for dwellings are presented only to those who intend to live in them. (If this was not the case, quite often the available homes in the rural areas would be used for resort purposes).

And plots for the maintenance of buildings in rural areas are presented by law only to those city-dwellers who inherited such structures. However, this is by no means meant to imply that city-dwellers are not authorized to obtain plots in rural areas for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. For example, plots are utilized by the members of horticultural associations. A garden farm can also be considered as a subsidiary enterprise. It bears mentioning that garden buildings which are being erected here are not classified as dwellings.

"I work at a plant which is located next to a sovkhos. In order to have a piece of land, I illegally acquired several "hundredths" of a hectare for a grandmother. But I am disturbed over the fact that a neighbor has an entire plantation. He says: "They give me as much as I want!" He has a yard complete with farm animals and poultry -- a genuine poultry factory. And only recently he obtained two young bulls from the sovkhos for fattening purposes. He works as a driver at the sovkhos, while I work at a plant. These are both state enterprises. Why does he get everything and myself nothing?"

S. Rutovitskiy
Krasnodar Kray

With regard to the statement "They give me as much as I want," your neighbor has certainly exaggerated the situation. There is good reason for referring to a private plot as subsidiary in nature: it has definite limits. For example, peasants in the RSFSR -- manual and office workers -- as a general rule are provided with private plots of land measuring up to 30, 25 and 15 "hundredths" of a hectare (depending upon the particular organizations in which they work). For kolkhoz members, this limit is defined in the Kolkhoz Regulations and cannot exceed one half hectare. Those villagers who do not have private plots are presented with gardens measuring up to 15 "hundredths" of a hectare in size per family. The norms for the allocation of haying and pasture land are defined by the oblast executive committees. Plots for the maintenance of inherited buildings in rural areas measure from 3 to 6 "hundredths" of a hectare, including the areas under the buildings.

The limitations on the numbers of livestock (again using the RSFSR as an example) differ for kolkhoz members and other citizens. However, neither of these groups is authorized to have more than one cow with offspring, one head of young cattle stock, one sow with offspring or two hogs for fattening. Limits are also imposed for sheep and goats. The maintenance of carnivorous fur-bearing animals is generally forbidden. Yet no limit is imposed on the numbers of poultry, rabbits or bee colonies. It is not necessary to count those livestock which are being raised based upon an agreement with a kolkhoz or sovkhos -- such animals belong to the farms.

It is interesting to note that as early as 1977 the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers called upon the union republic governments to

examine the question concerning the feasibility of increasing the norms for privately owned livestock for citizens in those areas where the possibility exists of providing them with haying and pasture land. However, the norms in the RSFSR still remain as before. The only step taken in 1982 was with regard to horses -- permission for the maintenance of horses can now be granted not by the oblast but rather by the rayon executive committee of a soviet. In addition, independence in determining the norms for privately owned livestock has been granted to Dagestan.

As is known, in the recently adopted decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on intensifying the campaign against unearned income, the task was assigned of examining the question of removing individual limitations on the numbers and types of productive animals on the private plots and examining the maximum norms for livestock maintenance, with local conditions being taken into account. But this question still remains open.

"At the present time, there is much discussion throughout the city concerning the Urukhskiy Sovkhoz in Urvanskiy Rayon. Here the director procured a half hectare plot for himself and thereafter 200 yards followed his example and increased the size of their plots in excess of the established norms. True, these individuals must be punished in keeping with party principles. But why is it that the militia always remains silent in such instances? Or could it be that there is no punishment for such actions?

N. Aleksandrev
Nalchik

Citizen responsibility for violations of the rules for land utilization was established long ago. For example, wilful seizure of land is considered to be a crime (Article 199 of the RSFSR Criminal Code). Legislation dealing with administrative transgressions provides for a number of misdemeanors of this type. Wilfully seized tracts are returned to their rightful owners with no reimbursement for expenditures incurred during the period of illegal use. A penalty is imposed for a crop grown on willfully seized tracts (or its value).

Citizen responsibility for violations of the norms and system for livestock maintenance on private plots is only now being introduced into operations in all areas. Up until now, special responsibility for these violations was employed only in some union republics and for all practical purposes it signified only the withdrawal, in accordance with a decision handed down by the rayon executive committee, of above-norm livestock with payment to the owners for their value.

"A penalty is being imposed for feeding grain to livestock. And what have we gained by this? One result -- the people no longer maintain livestock. We must blame not those who feed grain to their livestock but rather those who do not wish to supply us with mixed feed. I recall how they condemned one old woman at Rasskazovo for having 16 loaves of grain. They imposed a fine upon her and confiscated her young bull."

Vasiliy Sh.
Tambov Oblast

The feeding of grain to livestock can in no way be justified. The fact that such activity is wrong has been discussed on numerous occasions. It leads to the production of illegal income. This occurs because grain is cheap owing to the fact that the state sells it at prices which are considerably lower than the true expenditures for its production. This is precisely why, in the campaign against illegal income, a legislator introduced more strict legal responsibility for grain purchases for feeding to livestock. New sanctions are being employed for any one of two actions -- for the purchasing of grain in stores for feeding to livestock and poultry or feeding purchased grain to livestock and poultry. Here we have in mind not only baked bread but also flour, groats and other food products. The administrative fine ranges from 50 to 100 rubles. If these actions were carried out following the imposition of a fine or in a systematic manner, or in large amounts, then they are considered to be crimes. Corrective work or a fine ranging from 100 to 500 rubles is ordered for such crimes. The confiscation of livestock as an additional punitive measure for such crimes was abolished several years ago.

The mixed feed problem is somewhat more complicated -- this subject (similar to other matters associated with management of the private economy) will be discussed in the next issue of the Legal Service of IZVESTIYA.

/21 Aug 86 p 3/

/Text/ "I have just finished watching the television program "Man and the Law." It was mentioned that the various types of rogues should be separated apart from honest workers. This is necessary. Only who then will share our concerns? If "illicit" mixed feed is not available, then help must be sought from the sovkhos director -- does this make sense? It is interesting to note that all steal to an equal degree. Thus, is it not legal to sell? For example, I dig up young potatoes. I sit on the bags and ponder: which decree is it that assists me in shipping the potatoes to market?

N. Kovalchuk
Vitebsk Oblast

Obviously, some prohibitions are not effective. In those areas where the farm leaders show no desire to aid the private plots, a requirement for "illicit" services arises.

But it should be noted that responsibility for "illicit" services becomes stronger as more legal means for furnishing assistance become available. For example, each kolkhoz or sovkhos is obligated to plan land areas for use by the population, including haying and pasture lands, and they must also serve the requirements for deliveries of all types of feed for privately owned livestock; they must also plan to satisfy the citizen needs for standard hectares of tractor output, ton-kilometers of use of trucks and so forth. The problem consists merely of ensuring that the farms carry out their planned production-financial measures for assisting the private plots in an efficient and consistent manner.

The mixed feed problem warrants special discussion. At the present time, counter sales have been organized for such feed for citizens who have concluded

agreements with consumer cooperative organizations for the purchasing of livestock and poultry. The state plans for the country's economic and social development annually call for the allocation of appropriate volumes to Tsentrosoyuz /Central Union of Consumers' Societies/. With regard to the kolkhozes and sovkhoses, they obtain mixed feed based upon the output production plans of livestock husbandry -- strictly in accordance with the funds.

Either directly or subjectively, as maintained by lawyers, the right to require a farm to sell mixed feed can be employed by a citizen only if this condition was included in the agreement for raising the livestock or poultry belonging to that farm. In all other instances, kolkhozes and sovkhoses can expand the sale of mixed feed to the population only by increasing the production of coarse and succulent feed. Thus, once again we have the problem of ensuring that the rural workers are supplied with mixed feed. In addition, payments in kind (particularly grain forage) for work performed at a kolkhoz or sovkhos can be of great help to the private economy. As you can see, here we have in mind legal means.

"At our market, throughout the year, I see a young man from southern regions standing behind the counters. It would be interesting to know where he signed on for work. I have heard that today it is not possible for anyone to leave their own oblasts with vegetables and fruit for the purpose of selling them at market. There is still another point: is it true that the market prices are now being established from on high?"

V. Sulina
Moscow

I will answer this directly: this is an illegal action -- the shipping of surplus private plot products beyond the borders of one's own territory is forbidden. The only exceptions would be instances required by sanitary and quarantine rules. The corresponding rights of USSR citizens are set forth in all-union legislative documents. To restrict these rights in the various areas is to go beyond the authorized limits.

Provision is also made for those persons who trade in agricultural products at the markets. If one plans to wage a serious campaign against speculators and second-hand dealers, it is impossible to proceed in the absence of a clear picture as to who is standing behind the counter. A worker should not be disturbed by this measure. To the contrary, it becomes easier to breathe behind the counter.

A word now concerning prices. Actually, Article 40 of the Principles of Civil Legislation, in which the sale of property by kolkhozes and citizens at mutually agreed upon prices is discussed, is supplemented by the words: "if not covered in the legislation for the USSR and union republics." However, this is not meant to imply that the prices will now be determined "from on high." Just as in the past, economic laws prevail at the markets: the price is arrived at by the salesman and customer based upon the specific market conditions existing at the time.

Experience has shown that a flow of kolkhoz and sovkhos products is considerably more effective in beating down the prices of private tradesmen at markets.

Allow me to cite a fresh example: as a result of this year's early spring period, the Moscow Sovkhoz imeni Dzerzhinskiy succeeded in reducing by 50 percent the price for tomatoes at the capital's Baumanskiy Market. Unfortunately, it must be stated however that, for the country as a whole, the proportion of kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the market trade amounts to only several percent. Recently they were authorized to sell up to 30 percent of their planned fruit and vegetable output at markets (not up to 10 percent as was established in 1982).

"Look if you will, at the manner in which the campaign against illegal income was started in the various areas. Instead of concerning themselves with branch stores and trade bases, the "activists" pursue old women and overturn their mesh bags filled with raspberries. One such "activist" recently bothered me at the Central Market in Moscow. He stated that my honey was an imitation, claiming that I fed a sugary syrup to my bees. I had to hold myself back from saying something. I was offended. The people cannot even conceive that their products will be inspected at the market prior to sale."

V. Adamenko
Kharkov Oblast

Meanwhile, there is some basis for a peasant being offended here. Let us begin with the fact that all food products being brought to market do in fact undergo a mandatory sanitary inspection. This work is carried out at meat and dairy and food control stations of kolkhoz markets. It is accomplished (on a mandatory basis) strictly in accordance with instructions. When inspecting products of plant origin, attention is focused on their external appearance, shape, size, color, consistency, aroma, taste and upon the presence or absence of plant damage or diseases. This is the so-called organoleptic method of examination. If a suspicion arises concerning the quality of a product or its falsification (it bears mentioning that sugary honey is considered to be a falsification), samples are taken for laboratory study. The mentioned examinations are recorded in a journal.

If a product is of good quality, then a label of a definite shape is glued onto the packaging (barrel, can and so forth). Naturally, such labels must not be kept in one's pocket as some salesmen do. A label should contain the following information in bold type: "Authorized for sale" and also the name and quantity of the product, the name of the salesman, the number of the examination, the date, the name of the station and the signature of the person who authorized the sale of the product. A label bearing the statement "Sub-standard product" is glued to the packaging for products which are of low quality but which are not harmful to one's health and which are authorized for sale. Products which are considered to be of low quality are destroyed or are subjected to denaturization.

In the case of honey, it is accepted during an examination only if the owner provides a veterinary certificate or license and a veterinary-sanitary passport for his apiary. The sale of honey is permitted only following an additional check of samples in a veterinary laboratory (for leftover antibiotics, causative agents of infectious bee diseases, radioactivity). Special labels are employed here: white color for high quality honey and blue for low quality honey. In the case mentioned, the purchaser should have paid attention to the label. A customer obviously has the right to require a salesman to show the label.

"All my life I have considered myself to be a workhorse and now, in my old age, they refer to me as a parasite. A neighbor has denounced me and claims that I derive unearned income from a private plot. Certainly, a comparison of the two of us reveals that his land is overgrown with sowthistle and nettles -- he sells nothing at the market. Meanwhile, I carefully tend each corner of my plot. He scratches his back while I am too busy to even straighten my spine. And they still refer to me as a parasite! It all began when I decided to install a small pond on my farmstead -- for the purpose of breeding carp. For two months -- April and May -- my son, daughter-in-law and I moved clay. And on 20 June, word was received from the village soviet: "Fedor Petrovich, you must fill up the hole." In addition, they stated that a hothouse had to be removed because it was too large -- nine by four meters -- and there was also an instruction from the rayon calling for the sources of unearned income to be eliminated. The hothouse is of the usual type -- made of plastic. Without it, I am unable to protect my tomatoes or cucumbers against the spring cold or during the autumn -- against the icy dew. Thus, I could only let everything perish. A hotbed is permitted. But a hothouse -- is it unearned income? Certainly, I am tearing it down. The devil take it along with the plot. I will take my pension and no longer grow grass. But my soul aches. There is talk concerning the culture of farming and agrotechnical practices and yet I must live in the past century. I will mention only one fact: those who arrange labor on earth for the purpose of eliminating unearned income should themselves attempt to raise a bunch of radishes in the absence of labor. But there is one chief concern -- I went to the rayon executive committee and nobody acquainted me with the law which forbids the installation of a pond or the erection of a large hothouse. I purchased the plastic using my hard-earned money and I erected it myself using my own hands. Evidently, the times are returning wherein privately owned cows can be taken away. If you have no cows, they now take away hothouses..."

F. Nechiporenko
Rostov Oblast

Unfortunately, the above letter is just one of many such letters which tend to confuse the situation, since no answer can be found which satisfies simultaneously the legal norms and common sense. As a lawyer, I am obligated to explain the legal position, in this instance, of the workers attached to the executive committee of the village soviet. Thus, from a formal standpoint they were correct since their position was based upon existing normative statutes.

There is a general rule -- any installations on a tract of land must meet two requirements: first of all, the purpose for which the tract was presented and, secondly, the rules and plan for building the populated point. Does the installation of a reservoir for the breeding of fish correspond to the special purpose of the plot presented, let us say, for a garden? In all probability, no. Those who are presented with private plots have greater opportunities for utilizing water. With the permission of the executive committee of the village soviet, they can install dug wells, pile-driven filtration wells and also catchment sources which operate in the absence of a forced lowering of the water level. In the case of closed (non-flowing) water areas, their individual use can be authorized only for organizations. If a water area is located within the borders of a rayon, permission to use it is given by the rayon

executive committee. Nevertheless logic dictates there should not be an insuperable barrier between the breeding of hogs and carp.

Let us now discuss hothouses. It would seem that the erection of such a facility is in keeping with the special purpose of tracts of land presented for the cultivation of vegetable and other agricultural crops. A requirement would exist merely for coordinating the hothouse's location with the organ which controls the building of the populated point.

But the problem becomes more complicated when we discuss maximum size. The erection of an unheated hothouse up to 15 square meters in size is authorized for tracts of land set aside in a collective garden for members of horticultural associations. This is borne out in the 29 December 1984 decree of the USSR Council of Ministers. Up until recently, the maximum area for hothouses on other tracts of land was defined, for the country as a whole, only in the SNiP's /Construction Norms and Regulations/. Thus the 9 June 1978 decree of USSR Gosstroy authorized the installation of hothouses, among other unheated farm buildings, with the stipulation that its area must not exceed 20 square meters. However, new SNiP's were enacted on 1 July 1986 which failed to establish the maximum dimensions for the hothouses. There are no other restrictive norms in USSR legislature.

The mentioned situations by no means cover all instances of insufficiently developed legal norms for regulating management of the private economy or artificially restraining private plot development. And indeed the task of legal instruments is primarily aimed at encouraging the initiative of private plot owners. And conversely -- imposing strict sanctions upon those who utilize the land free of charge and transform it into a weed-covered wasteland.

7026

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

CHAIRMAN ASSESSES PROGRESS OF KINEL RAPO ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 37, Sep 86 p 10

Article by Yu. Zezin, chairman of the Kinel RAPO in Kuybyshev Oblast:
"According To Income and Expenses"/

Text Since the beginning of this year, the Kinel RAPO
[rayon agroindustrial association], among other rayon
agroindustrial associations, has become a participant in
an economic experiment concerned with improving the system
of management based upon the principles of self-repayment.
Each labor collective can now spend for production and
social needs only those funds which it earned.

We made thorough preparations for carrying out this experiment. Measures were undertaken aimed at strengthening the logistical base of the farms and raising the level of economic operations. During the years of the 11th Five-Year Plan, notwithstanding a number of years considered to be unfavorable from the standpoint of weather, the output production volumes increased by 12 percent. More could have been achieved but for the fact that the farm leaders, instead of mobilizing their internal production reserves, quite often relied upon obtaining bank credit. Each year the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the rayon have in this manner drawn 4.5-5 million rubles into circulation. However, a large portion of these funds was employed not for expanding production but rather for paying off loans undertaken earlier.

The newly begun experiment put an end to the old habit of some economic executives of concealing production problems by means of state subsidies and pinning their hopes on the bank's generosity. The new conditions are aimed at carrying out expanded reproduction mainly by means of internal resources. Thus, this year the rayon's farms requested only 500,000 rubles from the bank for covering a temporary shortage in financial resources. This was considerably less than the amounts for previous years.

In Order To Return Funds Received

Computations carried out by our economists have shown that for an association to be able to operate on the basis of self-repayment principles, the profitability level must exceed somewhat 40 percent. In our case and based upon last year's results, this indicator amounted to 32 percent.

Oblagroprom, having established a so-called bonus for this year in the amount of 7.4 million rubles, for adding onto the purchase prices, furnished assistance in bringing the farms and all RAPO subunits into conformity with the established task. With these resources concentrated in our hands, we were able to maneuver the financial resources flexibly within the association in the interest of utilizing them in an efficient manner and to influence actively the status of affairs at the kolkhozes and sovkhoses.

At the beginning of the year, taking into account the differences in purchase prices for the products of leading and weak farms, the RAPO council distributed a bonus among them in a manner so as to create equal operating conditions for the collectives and to raise the capital-labor ratio and capital availability of backward farms. Thus, based upon last year's results, the profitability level for the Kolkhoz imeni Kalinin amounted to 6 percent and for the Put K Kommunizmu Kolkhoz -- 3 percent. In order to improve their economic status, the RAPO decided upon bonuses of 492,000 and 416,000 rubles respectively for these farms. On the other hand, additional funds were not allocated for the Komsomolets Sovkhoz owing to the fact that it operated on a highly profitable basis. But on the other hand, all net surplus profit is placed at its disposal and is used at the discretion of the board for satisfying the needs of the farm.

By what means do we intend to strengthen in actual practice the principles of self-repayment and return to the state credit obtained earlier? There can be but one answer for this question: by increasing the output production and sales volumes, by lowering production costs and by organizing a strict regime for savings and thrift based upon cost accounting.

The independence presented to kolkhozes and sovkhoses for planning production operations is opening up broad opportunities for accomplishing this. The conditions for the experiment called for a sharp reduction in the number of indicators approved for the farms. Earlier the list of tasks included the production volumes, output sales by types, production costs, profit, profitability and withholdings for the budget.

Purchase volumes based upon the average annual levels for the preceding five-year plan, budgetary payments and appropriations and norms for deliveries of machines, equipment and materials have now been established for the farms. The farm specialists have been authorized to determine independently the structure for products sold to the state and to orient the collectives towards increasing the production of highly profitable types of products.

For example, having planned an increase in the sale of milk and meat to the state with a small reduction in the sale of grain, the Kolkhoz imeni Kalyagin planned to raise considerably the farm's profitability compared to 1985. On the whole, the RAPO's five-year plan, formed on the basis of farm recommendations, calls for an increase of 25 percent in the sale of products during the five-year plan.

For increasing the production volumes, we are relying mainly upon raising the productivity of the agricultural lands. We have commenced introducing the normative method for planning yields. Compared to last year, the grain field

area cultivated using the intensive technology has been increased by almost 20 percent, including for winter crops -- by 36 percent.

The cultivation of the fields, tending of the sowings and harvesting of the crops are being carried out by contractual collectives in which two thirds of all of the field crop husbandry workers are working today. Materially interested in the final results, they are performing high quality work and achieving fine results. Thus the grain growers at the Komsomolets Sovkhoz obtained up to 40 quintals of grain per hectare. The average grain crop yield for the rayon surpassed the average annual level for the past five-year plan by a factor of 1.5.

The appreciable increase in planned yields promises not only to provide repayment for each ruble expended but in addition it will produce considerable profit. In addition, we plan to obtain more sunflowers from the same areas -- the rayon's second most important crop. Towards this end, the sowings of high oil-bearing varieties have been increased, varieties which ensure the highest yields of product per unit of space.

Strengthening the Regime for Thrift

Under self-repayment conditions, special importance is being attached to strengthening the regime for thrift. The plans call for the production costs for various types of products to be lowered by 12-15 percent during the five-year plan mainly as a result of this factor. The check system for control over direct production expenditures, which already encompasses 120 of 155 RAPO subunits, is being employed more extensively in all areas. Expenditure limits are assigned to all of the field crop husbandry teams, tractor brigades and dairy farms. Experience reveals that the best results are achieved in those areas where feed consumption and the products obtained are accounted for in an efficient manner.

Each month the RAPO specialists analyze thoroughly the changes on the farms in production expenditures for livestock products and they furnish recommendations for improving the feed structure and balance. And it bears mentioning that a reassuring trend is developing. Compared to the level for last year, over a period of 6 months the production cost for a quintal of milk declined on the average from 25.36 to 24.06 rubles and meat -- from 218.87 to 208.64 rubles. The best results were achieved by the livestock breeders at the kolkhozes imeni Kuybyshev and imeni Kalinin. But even here there are considerable reserves for reducing expenditures. Indeed the production cost for meat, for example, is higher than the retail price for it in the state trade.

At the present time, during the feed procurement period, when adequate quantities of hay, haylage and silage are being placed in storage, we are doing everything possible to avoid losses. Construction work has been completed on hay storehouses at a number of kolkhozes. By the end of the year, hay barns and sheds will have been built at all farms which lack them at the present time.

The newly introduced wages based upon gross income are aimed at intensifying thrift. We have converted all of the livestock husbandry and field crop husbandry subunits of kolkhozes throughout the rayon over to this form of

stimulation. Having concluded agreements with the administration, the collectives are now interested not only in producing more products but also in adhering to the assigned limits with fewer expenditures. A portion of the funds obtained as a result of savings in expenditures is being added to the earnings of the kolkhoz members and overexpenditures are being deducted.

Wages based upon gross income will encourage the RAPO leaders and specialists to furnish more active assistance to the farms in improving the production technology and in introducing progressive forms for labor organization and wages. In accordance with the conditions for the experiment, each month the RAPO workers are paid 90 percent of their official salaries. A final computation is carried out based upon the results for the year. Towards this end and taking into account the level for the past five-year plan, a norm is established for formation of the wage fund -- three rubles per thousand rubles worth of products sold. The order for the final computation of earnings based upon the annual results is defined.

The RAPO council carries out a number of specific measures aimed at improving economic relationships among all partners. Thus the wages for workers attached to the agrochemical service are strictly dependent upon the volume, schedules and quality of the work carried out in accordance with agreements concluded with the farms. In the event they fail to observe certain points of the agreement, the amount of their wages is reduced to 20 percent of the monthly rate. A bonus of 1 percent is added for each percent of over-fulfillment. Specialists attached to the farms are authorized to determine the quality of the agrochemical work.

What have we achieved simply by converting the rayon's economy over to the principles of self-repayment? Here are some figures. By making active use of the new levers for control, the RAPO sold to the state 215 tons of meat and 751 tons of milk over and above the tense plan for the first six months. For additional products sold, the rayon's farms received 600,000 rubles of experimental bonus added on to the purchase prices. High returns were realized by the collectives of the kolkhozes imeni Kalyagin, imeni Antonov and imeni Kuybyshev, which are headed by the experienced and industrious chairmen B. Yulin, V. Antonov and N. Medvedev. Strong principles of self-repayment are being developed here.

We Do Not Need Old Methods

However, it bears mentioning that the course of the experiment is restraining a number of subjective aspects. I would like to direct attention to them.

Our independence is still not free of regulation. Even in June, when the farms were working in behalf of independently formed plans, the Kuybyshev obplan corrected the tasks for purchases of certain types of grain crops and sunflowers. In conformity with the new figures, we had to correct our production program.

Some department heads of the oblagroprom are continuing to use antiquated methods and they are affecting the work of a repair-technical enterprise, creamery and other organizations included in the structure of the rayon APK (agroindustrial complex). The RAPO is still not receiving reports from these subunits. And today an attempt is being made to control them individually.

Petty support, which paralyzes initiative and efficiency, has still not been eliminated. For example, we decided to withdraw several machines from our motor transport enterprise and to turn them over to weak farms where there was a greater need for them. Immediately thereafter the RAPO received a letter from the deputy chairman of the oblagroprom, the former director of obtselkhoztekhnika A. Makridin, in which he stated that the decision was incorrect. We nevertheless held our ground. But must the experiment develop under such conditions? Today we are scouts for the future and we do not need old methods.

In accordance with the conditions for the economic experiment, logistical support for farms which converted over to the new conditions must be carried out based upon computed requirements. At the beginning of this current year, specialists attached to kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Kinel'skiy Rayon determined their needs for construction materials in keeping with the work volumes planned.

However, the funds made available to the farms for cement, wood, bricks and other materials turned out to be lower by roughly 30 percent than the amounts needed. The deputy chairman of the Kuybyshev Oblagroprom V. Gorbachev explained that the funds allocated by Gosagroprom to the oblast for construction materials were inadequate. And if the requirements of the Kinel RAPO are satisfied fully, then it becomes necessary to "strip" construction projects in other rayons. A question arises: under such conditions, is it possible for the economic results of the experiment to be fully revealed? The opinion of RSFSR Gosagroprom is sought.

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

BRONSHTEYN ON ESTONIAN RESOURCE USE, NORM PLANNING

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by M. Bronshteyn, Academician of the Estonian Academy of Sciences:
"Resources and Results: Creatively Mastering the New Management Mechanism"]

[Text] The creation of a complete organizational structure for administering the agroindustrial complex at all levels is being reinforced today by an effective economic mechanism. In short, the principal goal of all of the changes is to bring about a change in the socio-economic situation in the rural areas.

The implementation of plans is not a simple matter. The effectiveness of measures undertaken is largely dependent upon the validity and singular direction of the economic norms and stimuli that have been developed. But the norms are created by people and thus errors and miscalculations are possible. Nevertheless they are especially dangerous here. It is sufficient, for example, when developing the norms, to orient them towards the actual maximum levels achieved in the use of resources and we automatically legalize the mismanagement of some by "undercutting" the interests of others.

It is recalled how the conversion over from the surplus-appropriation system to a tax in kind was carried out in the 1920's. V.I. Lenin attached special importance to a correct substantiation of the size of the country's centralized production fund (excessive centralization was considered to be economically unprofitable; the expenditures for transport and storage increased and less interest and responsibility were displayed in the various areas) and the tax in kind as well. The latter could not be the same for the various provinces, districts, rural areas and peasant farms. The size of the tax in kind was determined by specially created committees consisting of scientists and specialists. The quality of the land and climate, the availability of livestock and working tools and the number of workers and mouths to feed were all taken into account. The largest administrative and industrial centers could expect to be supplied with food goods from the country's fund only at those times when their own provinces were unable to feed them. In essence, use was made of the resource-normative approach. The greater the amount of resources -- the higher the degree of responsibility required in connection with their use. This is both fair and effective. This principle constitutes the foundation for today's administrative reorganization in the APK [agroindustrial complex].

Certainly, in computing the resource potential, we must first of all take into account the fact that the chief means of production in agriculture has been and continues to be the land. Its fertility and location should determine the degree of economic responsibility and the effectiveness of its use -- the material status and social prestige of the territorial and economic elements.

A second component of the resource potential is the producer goods. In recent years, they have increased many times over. But they are distributed unevenly: some have large amounts, even surpluses, while others do not have enough. And it is no secret that the surpluses are not always earned. The economic executives place a high value upon the "ability," by means of truths and untruths, to uncover deficit resources -- with them it is easier to fulfill a plan. In recent decades, the effectiveness of use of producer goods has declined considerably and this is alarming.

The labor resources must necessarily be taken into account. There are regions and farms which have obvious or concealed surpluses in these resources and the falling behind of others is conditioned by a chronic shortage of man-power. The latter circumstance is especially typical of the nonchernozem zone of the RSFSR. The differences in the availability of personnel and in their quantitative and qualitative structure must not be overlooked. Moreover, a combination by regions and farms of the three principal elements of resource potential -- land, funds, man-power -- varies.

For example, if we compare the Estonian SSR against the country as a whole, we find that the natural fertility of the land is lower, the climatic conditions are worse and the labor resources are fewer in number. But the producer goods per hectare of land are greater. Thus, in order to obtain a correct evaluation and comparison of the resource potentials, importance is attached to determining the weight of each factor and their overall effect. This is not a simple matter. However, the methods of mathematical statistics (they are more acceptable for an economic evaluation for the total number of farms within individual regions) and expert evaluations by factors during inter-regional comparisons are making it possible to obtain reliable and fully workable norms for output yield and income per unit of total resource potential for regions and farms throughout the country.

It is noted that in various scientific centers -- in the Ukraine, Belorussia, the Baltic region, Novosibirsk, Saratov and others -- the scientists have developed methods for evaluating the agro-economic resource potentials and their use in planning output production. But they were not compared. Gosagroprom and USSR Gosplan summarized accumulated experience and commencing in 1987 they will introduce into planning practice a resource-normative approach for use on a country-wide scale. It is understood that these norms are not rigid or unchanging and that they will be improved and defined more precisely. And the experience being accumulated through their use is of special importance today.

In the Estonian SSR, normative-resource planning is being employed successfully in rayon agroindustrial associations. A discussion which took place more than a decade ago, during the creation of our first experimental RAPO's /rayon agroindustrial associations/, is recalled. At that time, the leaders of large farms feared that their kolkhozes and sovkhoses in RAPO's would be "undermined" for the sake of "fattening up negligent establishments." This could have

happened but for the fact that an evaluation was carried out at that time throughout the republic on the agro-economic resource potentials of all farms. All factors were taken into account -- from the quality of the land, labor resources and the availability of producer goods right up to deliveries of mineral fertilizers and mixed feeds. Each year and for each rayon and farm, using the methods of mathematical statistics and computers, the amount of profit and gross income per hectare of ground worked, during normal management of a farm (at the average level for the republic), is computed.

This is the economic norm for use of the total resource potential. A comparison of actual profitability against the norm makes it possible to determine the true effectiveness of management. It turned out that by no means did all of the leading farms, based upon the usual measurements, use their resource potential at the normative level. And the differences in effectiveness, even among farms in the same rayon, reached 300-400 percent.

The objectiveness of such an evaluation leaves no doubt. In the republic today, the obligations of farms and RAPO's with regard to product and resource deliveries and the amounts of farm payments into the centralized funds are being determined based upon agro-economic resource potentials.

For example, let us take the Vilyandiskiy RAPO, one of the first formed in the country. Here the Sovkhoz imeni Gagarin and the Karksi Kolkhoz were assigned the highest tasks with regard to the sale of products to the state and payments into the centralized funds. The norm for their deductions into the centralized RAPO funds turned out to be higher by a factor of 8-12 than that for economically weak farms. Over the past 10 years, the total amount of these payments has amounted to approximately 3 million rubles. But the farms are not the losers. Their leaders and specialists set a fine example in the efficient use of resource potential. After evaluating their work for its true worth, the RAPO provided these farms with considerable material funds for the creation and development of a swine breeding combine and a feeding stable for cattle. The evaluation of their resource potentials increased accordingly and increases also took place in the plans for selling products to the state and also in the withholdings for the centralized RAPO funds. But at the same time, a considerable portion of the funds obtained through the use of additional resources was delivered to the farms. And the withholdings proportional to the increasing evaluation of the resource potential were used by the RAPO for carrying out general programs and for improving the status of farms which had fallen behind because of objective factors.

The experience of the Pyarnuskiy RAPO is equally interesting and instructive. The natural-economic conditions in this rayon are considerably worse than those found in Vilyandiskiy Rayon. Nevertheless, having obtained a reliable instrument for evaluating effectiveness and for smoothing out the economic conditions of management, the authorities in Pyarnu succeeded in bringing about improvements in all of the backward farms within a brief period of time. Over the past 5 years, the rayon carried out a type of economic "miracle": the average milk yield per cow was increased by almost 1,100 kilograms and reached 4,000 kilograms. The gross production of agricultural products increased by one third. This was the republic's highest indicator.

It would seem that there was nothing more to be desired. Here a new development had collided with an obsolete one: the rayon's dominant resource-normative approach was in conflict at the republic and union levels with the methods for evaluating and stimulating the results of economic activity.

Judge for yourself. During the 11th Five-Year Plan, the farms in Pyarnuskiy Rayon made a fine showing for themselves -- they furnished the greatest increase in output production per unit of resource potential. It is clear that it will be more difficult and expensive for them to achieve the same rates during the new five-year plan. For example, the cow milk yields must on the average be raised to more than 5,300 kilograms. And yet owing to weather factors there has been a shortage of feed. As a result, since the beginning of 1986 the milk yields in the rayon have declined somewhat.

The situation must be studied from a new perspective. However, the former yardsticks are still being used. For example, in a review published in a republic newspaper, the work performed by farms in Rapolaskiy Rayon, where the milk yields have increased, was given a positive evaluation, while the farms in Pyarnuskiy Rayon, where the milk yields declined somewhat, were criticized. Meanwhile, the resource potential in Rapolaskiy Rayon is higher even though the milk yields and yields in other products per unit of resource potential are lower here.

Still another paradox has yet to be eliminated: territorial and economic elements which achieved high levels in output yield per unit of resource potential are being punished from a material standpoint for their efficient work. In 1983, a system of bonuses was introduced for low profitability and unprofitable farms for adding on to their purchase prices. The state annually allocates almost 10 billion rubles for this purpose. Farms which carry out their production operations under relatively unfavorable natural-economic conditions should receive some encouragement. These conditions must be evaluated. But the bonus system was introduced into operations in haste and thus in the center and in the various areas they based their actions upon the actual situation that developed. The resource potentials of the farms and the degree of their use were not taken into account. As a result, those regions and farms which worked more efficiently found themselves in a worse situation. On the other hand, some kolkhozes and sovkhoses which did not use their existing resources received a type of bonus for their mismanagement.

Thus, in Rapolaskiy Rayon the Lokuta Kolkhoz was among those farms which received a 30 percent bonus added on to the purchase price. Its natural-economic conditions were relatively favorable. In accordance with the normative evaluation of its resource potential, the kolkhoz should have earned 300 rubles of profit per hectare of land worked, a figure that was considerably higher than the average level for the rayon as a whole. Yet it earned only 70 rubles in 1984. It would seem that it should have been punished for such use of resources. However, the farm was nonetheless paid 120 rubles per hectare in the form of a bonus added on to the purchase price. Such examples are to be found in any region of the country.

The situation is further aggravated by the practice of purchase price bonuses being paid by the state for products sold by the farms over and above the

average level for the preceding five-year period. It would seem that everything was correct and that we were stimulating an increase. But this same Pyarnuskiy Rayon which made a fine showing during the 11th Five-Year Plan may encounter financial difficulties during the 12th Five-Year Plan. For it will be difficult for it to achieve its former high rates of growth and hence its average sales price will fall. In other words, for the same output it will earn several million rubles less.

Generally speaking, it is hardly a normal situation when, during a favorable year and with a reduction in the cost of output, a sharp increase takes place in state expenditures for purchasing each ton of output and, conversely, during unfavorable years, with growth in costs and an increase in the farm requirements for financial resources, a sharp reduction takes place in the above expenditures. The prices must reflect to a greater degree the socially required expenditures and the quality of the output. This requirement, which is included in the new wording of the CPSU Program, must be implemented in a more bold manner. The following approach should be checked on an experimental basis: for regions and farms which achieved high output yields per unit of resource potential, the bonuses received during the previous five-year plan should be included in the principal purchase price.

A true acceleration in socio-economic development can be achieved only by means of a high level of return from accumulated resource potential. The modern essence of the process of agricultural production intensification is determined by this stern dependence. And the entire system of norms and stimuli must be oriented towards its economic maintenance. The manner in which we use our resources determines how we live. There is no other way. This fact must constantly be recalled when examining the parts of the economic mechanism and a creative approach must be employed when taking into account all of the local peculiarities that predetermine the development of the agroindustrial complex.

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FORESTRY AND TIMBER

COMMENTARY ON RESOURCE DEPLETION, REFORESTATION PROBLEMS

Forestry Specialist Buzoverov

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Dec 85 p 2

**/Article by M. Buzoverov, chief of the Ulyanovsk Lesproyekt Expedition:
"Forest Groves On Paper and On the Land"/**

[Text] Ulyanovsk-- Our timber resources are not infinite and thus they require planned restoration -- such is the opinion of a forestry specialist in Ulyanovsk.

My profession is such that, while working today, we foresters are able to glance into tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. Indeed an entire century takes place from the moment a tiny pine sapling is planted until we have a mighty pine forest. Exactly what the land will be like during the next century is dependent upon us today. Our offspring will pay for our neglect and mistakes. This then underscores the degree of responsibility borne by a forester.

I would like to discuss reforestation. In the 6th Section of the draft basic directions, forestry is assigned the task of "improving the reproduction and use of forestry resources and introducing scientific achievements and zonal farming systems on a more extensive scale..." In order to solve these tasks successfully, it is my opinion that we must now examine the forest cultivation technologies existing at the present time and also change the methods for providing material incentives.

What do we have in mind? Owing to the very nature of our work, we must return to the same forests every 10 years. We must examine what has been done, what has grown and what is lacking. And it often happens as follows: the forests appear to increase considerably on paper and yet out on the land they seem to decrease in size. This is the situation, for example, in the southern part of Ulyanovsk Oblast in Pavlovskiy Rayon. The forest here is the last one bordering on the steppe region. The treeless Saratov Oblast stretches out to the south. The forest in Pavlovskiy Rayon is not a luxury but rather a vital need. It is of tremendous importance from a nature conservation standpoint, it furnishes assistance to grain growers, it protects the land and, certainly, it provides wood.

However, with the passage of time the green forest is becoming weaker and more sparse. There is a leskhoz /forestry farm/ on the territory of the rayon. Each year it increases the forest plantings by 200 hectares. Yet in recent years, the forest area has been declining. Despite expectations, instead of mighty pine forests at best only puny birch groves and aspen forests are growing over large areas.

Here are some specific figures: from 1971 to 1981, the leskhoz planted pine trees on 1,800 hectares. This is a considerable amount. However, in 1982 they remained only on 800 hectares. More than 1,000 hectares perished. Yes and of those which remained, only one fourth could be considered as being in good condition. The remaining trees will most likely perish during the next few years: they are sparse and overgrown with weeds. It is a sad balance. The increase in the forest by means of plantings amounted to less than 10 percent and yet 500,000 rubles were spent in carrying out the work. Where is the return?

Could it be that the forestry farm workers are not tending their plantings in a conscientious manner? No, this is not the case. There is another problem. Certainly, we cannot refer to the tree tending work as being ideal. On forestry farms in the central Volga region, one out of every four hectares of young forest perishes over a period of 10 years and over a period of 20 years -- one out of every three hectares.

What is the reason for this lamentable situation in forest restoration? One of the chief reasons is economic in nature. A pine tree is planted. The foresters tend it for a period of 3 years and receive a bonus for having achieved a so-called "planned increase." All is normal. But the 3 years passed and the bonus for tending the tree was not continued. The foresters carry out new plantings and once again they receive bonuses over a period of 3 years. Meanwhile, the trees planted earlier perish or become overgrown with weeds and undergrowth. This takes place year after year. Thus the forests grow on paper.

There is still one other reason -- a technological one. One half of all of the plantings perish owing to the fact that two times fewer plants are planted per hectare than are needed.

Allow me to explain the above. A forest grows according to its own laws. In a good young pine forest, the trees grow in a dense canopied state. Compared to this time when there are 10,000-20,000 trees per hectare, at the age of ripeness there remain only 600-800 trees. A so-called natural thinning out takes place. In the past, the foresters always took this factor into account.

How do we refer to an agronomist who, despite an annual reduction in yields, continues to sow at a lesser rate than that called for in the norm? And this has been continuing in forestry for almost 30 years. It seems to me that this problem should be examined in detail when discussing the draft basic directions. It involves problems in our economic mechanism which in the final analysis can only adversely affect efficiency.

31 October 1986

Response To Buzoverov

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jul 86 p 2

/Article: "Forests and Not Hectares Grow"/

/Text/ Radical improvements are needed in the area of reforestation. Such was the conclusion drawn by the author of an article which appeared in IZVESTIYA, Ulyanovsk forest manager M. Buzoverov. He wrote that in many regions, including in the central Volga zone, a constant reduction is taking place in the area of mature forest, the lumber supplies are declining and that large quantities of young stock are perishing as a result of poor tending. The structure of the felling areas from the standpoint of quality is deteriorating -- anymore it is difficult to find a plot that is capable of furnishing beams, boards or other needed materials: the quantities of small cuttings and firewood are increasing. Yet USSR Gosleskhoz /State Committee for Forestry/ and RSFSR Minleskhoz maintain that everything is proceeding normally and that each hectare cut down throughout the country is being replaced by two newly planted ones. But how many of these are being developed into high quality timber? This question remains open.

The author of the article entitled "Forest Groves On Paper and On the Land" cited reasons for this mismanagement. Among these, he singled out the two main ones. The first -- the existing system for issuing incentives for reforestation work serves not the birth of a forest but quite often only the appearance of additions. Forestry farm workers now receive bonuses for achieving a so-called "planned increase" only for the first 3 years. Subsequently, no further bonuses are authorized for tending the plantings. Thus it is more profitable for the foresters to reject old plantings, plant new ones and again obtain money over the course of 3 years. But in the meantime the trees planted earlier become overgrown with weeds and undergrowth and, as a result, perish.

The author of the article further stated that in his opinion one half of all plantings perish owing to the fact that the number of trees planted per hectare is two times less than the number needed. He recommended a return to the technology for planting pine trees which existed earlier and which fully proved its worth. This technology called for up to 10,000 young plants to be planted per hectare. Pine trees were planted in this manner in the early part of the century. But in recent decades, with emphasis being placed upon an imaginary reduction in reforestation expenditures, the recommendations of USSR Gosleskhoz have called for two times fewer trees to be planted per hectare. Thus the plantings have become clogged with weeds and have required intensive tending.

It is possible that the conclusions and recommendations of M. Buzoverov are open to question. But the seriousness and importance of the problem raised are such that we can only hope that this publication will be examined in detail in USSR Gosleskhoz and RSFSR Minleskhoz.

We did not have to wait long for the official responses. The reply by USSR Gosleskhoz was signed by the deputy chairman Comrade B. Otstavnov and that from RSFSR Minleskhoz -- by Deputy Minister R. Bobrov. But although the

departments and authors of the replies are different, both replies turned out to be surprisingly similar -- as though one was a carbon copy of the other. In both instances, it was stated in the initial paragraphs that the article by M. Buzoverov had been examined by the staffs. In the second paragraphs, it is stated that responsible workers were dispatched to Ulyanovsk on temporary duty. Thereafter, it was stated in both papers that "owing to unsatisfactory conservation and crude violations of the agrotechnical and forestry requirements" considerable timber plantings perished at the Pavlovsk Forestry Farm. In addition, it was stated that the farm's director had been discharged from his position. True, this took place prior to publication in the newspaper. Finally, it was stated in the replies that RSFSR Minleskhoz has required the Ulyanovsk Forestry Administration "to carry out the measures required for ensuring a maximum planting density and improved conservation of the forestry crops."

From a formal standpoint, it would appear that everything was in proper order. A check was carried out, discussions were held, obligations were handed down and measures undertaken. But how was work actually proceeding? Our own correspondent in Ulyanovsk, Zh. Mindubayev, requested the author of the publication in IZVESTIYA, chief engineer for the Ulyanovsk Forestry Management Expedition M. Buzoverov, to comment upon the two official replies:

"The status of affairs in reforestation throughout the country is clearly unfavorable. And this is a well known fact. Moreover, measures undertaken by the staff of the forestry branch for correcting the situation can hardly be considered adequate. For example, someone wrote in saying that the director of a forestry farm had been removed from his position owing to the fact that reforestation work had been completely neglected. But did this change the situation? The operating conditions must be changed and new economic criteria and a reforestation technology which has proved its worth in actual practice must be introduced into operations."

But nothing was said concerning the above in the replies received. Information was received from USSR Gosleskhoz and RSFSR Minleskhoz stating that they required the "Ulyanovsk Forestry Administration to carry out the measures needed for ensuring a maximum planting density." But how can the Ulyanovsk Administration do this? Indeed the instructions and conditions which determine how many pine trees are to be planted per hectare were approved by Gosleskhoz and naturally they cannot be violated. Thus, one might ask: does the right hand of Gosleskhoz know what the left hand is doing?

Dense plantings are becoming more scarce in all areas. It may seem strange to ignorant people: what advantage can be gained from planting a forest using the worst method? There is a departmental advantage, since a computation is carried out based upon the number of hectares planted. The forestry farm workers are paid based upon these hectares and the number of hectares determines how good the branch's indicators are. And yet practically nobody bears responsibility for the size of the forest or for its quality.

The emphasis on hectares, failure to use the best technology and a devil-may-care attitude in tending the young plants quite often produces absurd situations. In the Miass Lespromkhoz, for example, the foresters of the celebrated Turgoyak Pine Forest have already planted all of their areas. But some new hectares are

needed. And thus a new forest is planted under the canopy of the old forest, despite the fact that the old forest is growing quite well by itself. The question might well be asked as to why are millions of rubles worth of state resources being cast to the winds?

Allow me to touch briefly upon the system for issuing economic incentives for reforestation work. Why did it encourage emphasis on the number of hectares planted and not the number of hectares raised. There still have been no substantial changes in this situation.

In conclusion, permit me to emphasize once again that the official replies sent in to the Editorial Board at first glance indicate that USSR Gosleskhoz and RSFSR Minleskhoz are interested in the problems raised by M. Buzoverov and that they have undertaken measures aimed at solving them. Actually, there has been no change in the situation. We are quite proper in expecting not simply formal replies from USSR Gosleskhoz and RSFSR Minleskhoz, but rather specific and effective actions in the spirit of the requirements set forth during the 27th party congress.

State Forestry Official

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Sep 86 p 2

/Article by L. Mikhaylov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Forestry: "Yes, There Will Be A Forest!"/

/Text The USSR State Committee for Forestry has reported that the article entitled "Forests and Not Hectares Grow," published in IZVESTIYA on 19 July 1986, has been examined by the committee's staff. It must be confessed that despite a number of measures undertaken in connection with reforestation problems, the facts set forth in the article did take place and the criticism aroused by the newspaper is correct.

Truly, the status of affairs in reforestation in a number of regions throughout the country remains unfavorable. In Ulyanovsk, Kirov, Kuybyshev, Kostroma and Omsk oblasts, owing to a lack of control and failure to adopt timely measures, the forest crops are perishing as a result of overgrown weeds. Here and in a number of other areas, an undesirable replacement of strains is taking place. The existing system for inventorying the forest crops and for issuing material incentives has not interested the forestry workers in creating high quality plantings.

The staff of USSR Gosleskhoz has examined and approved recommendations for radically improving reforestation operations. An order has been handed down which defines the specific measures, schedules and persons responsible for carrying out these recommendations.

The branch's scientific-research and planning institutes have been tasked with examining and presenting for approval a number of important normative documents concerned with reforestation. The intention here is to define a scientifically sound ratio for natural and artificial reforestation for each oblast, kray and autonomous republic, in the interest of objectively validating the planning for the volumes of forestry work; defining more precisely the regional technical

instructions which regulate the planting density for crops, the instruction on the carrying out of annual inventories and a number of other questions.

Measures have been provided for controlling the numbers of wild animals that cause considerable damage to forestry crops and to young economically valuable plantings.

Jointly with the central committee of the branch trade union, a decision was adopted on issuing bonuses to forestry workers based upon the final reforestation result -- carrying out the plan for raising and introducing young plants into the category of valuable plantings. The draft GOST /state standard/ is entitled "Forestry Crops. Quality Evaluation During Conversion Over to a Covered Forest Area." This GOST will be presented to USSR Gosstandart /State Committee for Standards of the USSR Council of Ministers/ for approval in the near future.

The staff has required those USSR Gosleskhoz and RSFSR Minleskhoz workers who are working on reforestation problems to evaluate in a more critical manner the status of affairs in forest culture production. An increase has taken place in the personal responsibility of the chief foresters of oblast forestry administrations for observance of existing rules for the examination of felling areas, the conservation of forestry crops, seed plants, undergrowth and the young plants of economically valuable strains and the quality of clean-up of felling areas.

With regard to the economic leaders of the Ulyanovsk Forestry Administration, it can be said that they drew the proper conclusions from the critical article which appeared in the newspaper. Solutions are being found in the oblast for such problems as protecting the forest crops against damage caused by livestock and wild animals, high quality soil preparation and increasing the planting areas at forestry sites. Commencing in 1986, the production of standard planting stock in irrigated nurseries is being expanded. Mechanized detachments have been created for forestry operations and a reserve seed fund has been placed in storage.

The USSR State Committee for Forestry believes that the implementation of these and some other measures adopted earlier will make it possible to correct decisively the status of affairs in reforestation work.

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